

Ross Dowson archives – correspondence – Year 1947 Jun-Dec

General correspondence incl. Montreal and Windsor, Ontario

- 06_03 Letter to Murray, re: need his article on the (BLP) conference
- 06_18 ***Document in August Internal Bulletin, “On Toronto Branch’s election experiences,”*** by RD: our wide distribution challenged vote property qualifications; the failure of CCF or LPP to run slates; no labor endorsement won by RWP; the press blackout; our vote increase in distributed areas
- 06_19 Letter to Don, Windsor, re branch matters, importance of paper
- 07_01 PC-RWP Minutes: report on Montreal, FI journal sub drive, Vancouver branch, Toronto; European Relief work
- 07_01 Letter to Don (Windsor), re: their excellent 50 sub results and sending us extra back copies of the SWP *Fourth International* from Detroit
- 07_05 Letter to (George) Breitman (SWP, New York?), re: Joe Rosenthal’s cartoons and sketches available on short order
- 07_07 Letter to Morris (Windsor), re: Don & Eleanor’s visit to Toronto; RD’s brother Hugh thinking of moving to Windsor
- 07_09 Letter to Murray, re: the first meeting of the Montreal branch?
- 07_21 Letter to Murray, re: almost 2000 subs on list now; rumblings of discontent from Vancouver comrades over security and the missing summer issue of LC, also question certain PC labor political views
- 07_21B Letter to Don (Windsor), re: his new UAW job and perspectives for political work, Eleanor’s views on Canadian workers “following American workers;” why not consult with (J.P.) Cannon on this?
- 07_23 Letter to Murray, re: IS (of FI) newsletter on youth in socialist parties in Europe; please check line of reply to Reg’s recent complaints
- 07_99 Letter to Murray D. (Montreal) organizational matters, branch & centre
- 08_05 Letter to Murray, re: Ukrainian WPers in Toronto, Jean-Marie’s anti-syndicates fight; French-language literature.
- 08_12 Letter to Murray, re: next issue of *Labor Challenge* out soon; hard-hitting critique against Saskatchewan CCF in box strike

08_29	RWP letter to All Branches and Members at Large: the yearly financial drive objective of \$1750 on eve of first RWP anniversary
09_03	PC minutes: consideration of an appeal for support from the British section
09_16	Letter to Murray, re: finances, street corner meetings
09_16B	Letter to Don (Windsor), re: integrating new young comrades, street corner meetings
09_19	Letter to Murray, (Montreal), re: 1 st anniversary of RWP, protest meeting held against CCF anti-semitic article
10_02	Letter to Don (Windsor), re: his letter to late for the current issue; his shop activities, books
10_03	Letter to Murray D. (Montreal) re party matters
10_18	Letter to Farrell (Dobbs, SWP, New York), re: enquiring about a trade union militant planning to return to the USA
10_21	PC Meeting minutes: the fight over BC Bill 39; request from Windsor for an experienced help; financial drive report; Toronto civil election campaign
10_22	Letter to Murray, re: financial problems, planning to run for Toronto mayoralty and board of control this winter
10_31	Letter to Don (Windsor), re: sorry not to publish his article again; Hugh Dowson thinking of moving there
10_26	Undated speech by RD "On the (<i>thirtieth</i>) anniversary of the October Revolution;" how the Soviet Union has risen rapidly to become the second world power despite the ruthless Kremlin bureaucracy; we refuse to believe this Stalinist clique is the only alternative to capitalism and fascism; the perspective of revolution in America
11_18	Letter to Murray, re: party and personnel matters; a bundle of warm clothes sent to him for the Montreal winter
11_19	Letter to Jean-Marie Bédard, re: Letter from an Western IWA (Intl. Woodworkers of America) organizer now in Quebec
11- 21	Letter to Don (Windsor), re: Reuther and the UAW; meeting Vincent Dunn (SWP) in Toledo; union connections

- 11_26 Letter to Murray, re: PC decision not to extend the financial campaign; not bad results; entering the civic elections
- 12_02 Letter to Don (Windsor), re: Civic election campaigns started; RWP only challenge to big business candidate; Murray Dowson RWP candidate for Toronto Mayor election brochure

20th June 1944

EC 1944-57 m

June 3 1947.

Dear Murray;

Ruth returned with no trouble at all yesterday and we held the editorial meeting last night.

Here is your consignment. We have to cover the Labor Party Conference for this issue of the paper. We figure that you will be able to obtain as extensive material on this ~~XXX~~ in Montreal as we would here. If I remember correctly the Library just down the street from Jean's has an excellent assortment of newspapers and the Star lets you use their archives. There will no doubt be an article on the convention in the coming issue of the Militant which I believe you receive on Saturday morning. You could adapt this to the Canadian situation ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ or at least probably get some good information. The date line is Monday morning the 9th. Ruth has just asked me if you could have the Immigration article in by Friday morning?

We are carrying an editorial on the Polish girls. Line will be on the exposure of the degeneration of capitalism and the only policy...Open the doors...and the splendid signs that the pickets carried in front of Dionne's factory when the girls arrived, welcoming them here and calling for unity of the Poles and French for better wages etc. We will be writing that from here.

Is there anything that you had in mind that should go in the paper that you ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ want to write from there?

Thanks for the subs and the payment on the book account.

Haven't taken up the matter of the organizers institute yet with the P.C. but think both you and Jean should go if possible. I think that I should go and also someone from Vancouver plus Vern. We will be taking it up at the P.C. shortly.

Congratulations on the developments with Ken and Jim. Hall to the Montreal branch.

all the best

Ross
Ross

Will you address the enclosed letter to
Max Newton's home - I have lost the number.
It is about Joe getting some work from
the Standard

Also would you enquire if the trip to the Maritimes that
Ken + Louis were talking about is coming off + when. Perhaps Alor
Joe could go

INTERNAL BULLETIN

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4

AUGUST 1947

	Page
On the Jewish question.....Harry Claremont	1
Palestine and the Jews.....Hosea Jaffe	5
On Toronto Election Experiences....R. Dowson	12
A Resolution on Trade Union Tactics...L. Trotsky	15
Remarks on the Transitional Program...L. Trotsky	18
Labor Challenge Sub Campaign.....Mary Wood	21

Issued by

THE REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY

of CANADA

.20 cents

SOME REMARKS ON THE TORONTO BRANCH'S ELECTION EXPERIENCES

By Ross Dowson

In the belief that other sections of the Party may find some value in Toronto's experiences, we have decided to add a few comments to the various reports on our election campaign that have already appeared in our press (Nov., Mid-Dec., Mid-Jan.).

The Toronto branch of the RWP ran a candidate for the highest municipal office in the second largest city in Canada, situated in the heart of the country's most concentrated industrial area. Our candidate for Mayor polled 3,201 votes or 3% of the total vote cast.

This was the Party's first electoral experience in over a decade, but despite its inexperience, its numerical weakness and a severe shortage of funds, the branch and our candidate Murray Dowson did an inspiring job of popularizing our ideas and our party.

The party program, drawn up in attractive leaflet form, was widely spread through house to house and factory gate distribution. 20,000 election manifestos were distributed, plus 7,000 copies of the December and Mid-December issues of Labor Challenge featuring our electoral program. Street corner and factory gate meetings were ruled out by the oppressively cold weather (the elections took place New Year's Day). Posters and billboards were not used due to the shortage of funds, but across the front of the headquarters in the heart of downtown Toronto stretching for 25 feet and over three feet high, was a sign: "Vote Labor--Vote Dowson Mayor--Candidate of the RWP". In an attempt to by-pass the complete blackout of our candidature by the bourgeois, Stalinist and CCF press, the party for the first time in its history broadcasted over the air.

The total cost of the campaign, borne entirely by the Toronto branch, was in the neighborhood of \$250 (including the two radio broadcasts which alone amounted to over \$100).

The vote in Toronto municipal elections is restricted to tenants or owners of property assessed at over \$400. This act deprives thousands of workers of their franchise. But despite this restriction, the vote cast demonstrated the viability of our program. Our candidate was the only labor candidate for mayor. Regardless of the popularity of this appeal, we have good reason to believe that our vote was an extremely conscious one, a revolutionary one. This is due in part to the sabotage by the traditional workers' parties, the red-baiting campaign, and the fact that because of the press blackout, almost the sole publicity the campaign received was what we, the Revolutionary Workers Party gave it.

The vote followed to an amazing degree the house-to-house leaflet and paper distributions. These distributions were concentrated in the proletarian and most consistently labor-voting areas. Due to lack of forces, important sections of the city were untouched

but a few spot distributions were carried out in some of these localities. The vote followed these distributions even to a particular side of a street and to the end of a block. In 26 sub-divisions scattered in seven wards that contain working class areas we received over 10% of the vote; in one sub-division we polled 20% of the entire vote. Both the CCF and the Stalinists made no public statement on our candidature, although Stalinist canvassers urged the electorate to support the Tory incumbent. Our vote in the heavily concentrated Stalinist areas and even in the more spotty CCF localities bore no clear relationship to either of these parties' poll.

Due to the failure of both the CCF and the LPP to run party slates and to challenge the Tory administration for very many posts, the election was on the whole viewed by the workers with little interest. The capitulation of the Stalinists before the red-baiting campaign and the attempt of both these parties to play down the basic issues confronting the electorate, only deepened the apathy and disinterest of the workers. Few election meetings were held by the rate-payers' organizations, etc. Our candidate appeared wherever possible on the platform, but these meetings were very poorly attended. A Stalinist mass rally featuring all their candidates including several who had been seated through last year's election, and leading party figures, was attended by approximately 25 persons.

There were two or three important factors that tended to restrain and limit the effectiveness of the branch's electoral drive. The decision to run a candidate was left until the very last moment and there had been no previous plans laid or preparations made for the campaign. The municipal elections took place at the very close of the party's yearly financial drive. This factor prevented the branch from throwing all its strength into the electoral campaign and made it difficult to raise funds so necessary for effective work.

The lateness of the decision to run a candidate prevented us from appearing before the AFL council to request endorsement as labor's candidate for mayor. Just prior to our decision, the Conservative incumbent received the endorsement of that body with the support of both Stalinist and CCF delegates. A request for permission to attend the CCL-CIO Council to ask for endorsement was rejected by the controlling CCF machine. At that time the RWP had no delegates at the CCL Council who could have demanded a hearing for our candidate and fought for endorsement. Only at the big Massey Harris Local of the UAW where we had a comrade and some supporters were we able to appear before the membership, ask for and receive endorsement.

Party candidature should be decided long in advance, funds accumulated and plans laid. Endorsement by the Trades Council or the matter merely coming on the floor, would have been a great gain for our party. Endorsement by various union locals where we have comrades would have made our candidature for mayor a big issue in the ranks of the labor movement.

Due to restrictive property qualifications few comrades were in a position to run for municipal office. The failure of the party to present more than one candidate for office enabled our enemies to ignore our candidacy and to picture us with a certain amount of success amongst backward workers as a pack of screwballs and not serious opponents. To have run a slate of candidates, if only two or three, would have been a more powerful blow at the bourgeois myth of non-partisan municipal politics, bolstered up by the Stalinists and the CCF. It would have given more weight to the party and its program, and it would have opened up wider fields for propaganda.

At the beginning of the campaign we had planned to issue periodical releases to the press on various issues as they arose. However it soon became obvious that there was a conspiracy to keep us off the pages. None of the releases were picked up, and as we became more involved in other work, we were compelled to ditch the idea and content ourselves with merely sending copies of our own press, the manifesto, etc. to the various papers and press services. The morning paper, controlled by the mining interests, alone of the three dailies, gave us publicity. On several occasions, in a right-jab column on city hall affairs, it attempted to distort and falsify our program and heap scorn and ridicule on our candidature. To our own amazement, just a day or so prior to the elections this column came out with a hysterical warning to stay-at-homes what "terrors" a RWP mayor would bring. Despite the organized blackout our candidate was announced over a national network.

The fact that we ran the only candidate for mayor who could lay claim to being a workers' candidate was of course a powerful weapon. But in some respects we failed to take full advantage of the fact that we were the only workers' candidate. This was due in part to lack of preparation and general inexperience. We failed to rally substantial support from friends and sympathizers for even such elementary tasks as door to door distributions. Many sources of funds which should have been open to us were not tapped.

While there were apparently no immediate gains made through the election campaign, it was an invaluable experience for the branch membership and was a big step in the popularization of our party and program to the Canadian working class.

All candidates for municipal office in Toronto are provided with a breakdown of the vote, even to polling sub-divisions. This breakdown has been of great value in determining just what areas are most favorable localities for subscription work in our campaign for 1250 new readers to our press.

In the process of the sub campaign we have come in contact with many workers who know of us from our mayoralty campaign and are curious to learn more about our program. When other workers whom we meet for the first time learn that we ran a candidate for mayor of the city of Toronto, they take a more serious attitude towards our party and its program. For our participation in the

elections proves to them that we are a serious party that is not content to leave its program on paper, but is challenging its enemies in the political field. It proves to them that we are not armchair coffee-shop revolutionists who know a great deal about the problems of the European and colonial revolution, but that we are a party of workers who are out to make the revolution here in Canada.

June 18, 1947

A RESOLUTION ON TRADE UNION TACTICS

We are including in this bulletin a resolution adopted by the Plenum of the International Left Opposition on September 26, 1933 and written by Comrade Trotsky. We believe this resolution will be especially useful today when Trotskyist forces the world over are struggling to gain a foothold inside the trade union movement.

The tactics outlined in the resolution can serve as a valuable guide for working in unions under conditions where the party is small and the unions are dominated by the reactionaries and Stalinists.

This resolution was written as the result of a controversy which arose in the Communist League of America over a speech delivered by Comrade Cannon at the Labor Conference in Gillespie, Illinois. The fact that Comrade Cannon did not present himself as a representative of the CLA was criticized by Shechtman and others as a deviation, "hiding the face of the Party."

June 19 1947

Dear Don;

We have received the 12 subs alright and we shipped off the 15 desired copies of Labor Challenge a short while after we got your note. Sorry we could not send you more but we cut the press run of the last issue right to the bone in an attempt to save every cent we could. We are now operating so cheap that this is one of the few remaining ways we can economize. In Toronto here the comrades are using copies of the June issue that we had left over for the sub door to door work. If you need any more papers that is all we can supply until the next issue comes off about this time next week...but say the word and we will send you quite a number of the June issue.

The campaign is coming along very well and everything indicates that we will make our objective if we keep up the good work and I hope go well over the top. We are picking up some good subs here in Toronto. Last night I managed to sell a one year sub to a fellow who is president of a United Mineworkers Local here. They organize chemical plants also. He had seen the paper and told me he liked it much better than the Tribune. He wanted me to stay and talk but I managed to gracefully wiggle away with the promise that I would come back for a talk later which I certainly will. Just across the road from him I sold a sub to a fellow of about 40 whose old man had subscribed at his home and had turned his copy over to him when he was done. He had not had a chance to read the paper but he said he would also take a sub as we got to stick together and when he was done his copy he could take it down to the shop and pass it around.

I have told the comrades that you are heading our way and everyone is looking forward to the first week in July. Perhaps if you could give me a little idea of your plans I could try to make arrangements to put you up.

Up until I heard you were coming I was going to get down and take up all the various points that you raised in that seven page missle you sent me a few days ago.

I am certainly glad to hear that you have come in contact with a good element. If the guy is any good I am absolutely confident that you and ~~Wesley~~ will bring it out of him and get him into the party. After all it was and is only a matter of time. We have the program and if we all may not be Trotskys at least we have the energy and confidence in the program to build the party. When you have the ideas all you have to have to go with it is the ability to interpret them, to advance them correctly and work hard at it. We will build the party in Windsor with you ~~and Wesley~~ the party and the paper.

Looking forward to seeing you

revolutionary greetings

Ross

July 1 1947)

Dear Don;

Just a short note to let you know that we have received all the subs that you have been forwarding. I am also enclosing a money order stub which is no good now but which you should keep in the future when you send money orders. This stub is your receipt from the P.O. and if perchance the money order had been lost it would have substantiated your claim for \$10.00

Thanks for the F.I.'s. Even if they are not in very good shape they might just be the numbers that would complete an otherwise good set. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Everyone here is very pleased to see that both you and Eleanor were able to put the campaign over in Windsor. Believe me I know that it must be quite tough when there is only two of you but you certainly have done a fine job. I would be a very good idea if ~~Hughes~~ had his car for a couple of us to go down there to put the campaign ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ well over the top. But unfortunately he has not been able to obtain it yet although he has had it on order for a considerable time. He was down to see the car outfit and was told that he might get it in August sometime.

However we can that any many other things over when you arrive here.

comradely

Ross

--Report on the recent developments in Montreal. Nucleus of seven persons already gathered together. Meeting being arranged within the next week or so to set up a branch and the necessary apparatus. Group small but contains prominent trade unionists and some active youth elements. Activities somewhat curbed for the immediate future by restrictive anti-working class regulations enforced in that province. Discussion on fall activities of branch. ~~Very~~ Excellent opportunities for the branch to obtain financial aid for the party from rather large sympathizers ~~around it~~ around it. M.D.'s plans to take up residence in that city endorsed.

--Report on drive for 1250 new subscribers to party press. Campaign success now assured. 1089 subscribers already obtained. All branches well over their quotas with the exception of Montreal which is not yet in a position to challenge restrictive regulations.

--Motion that Cdn party launch a drive to increase the circulation of the Fourth International in Canada throughout the month of August..and that the Ntl Sect. request of the F.I. that it permit the Cdn party to obtain 6 month subs at \$1.00. It was pointed out that August is a poor month but that there appears to be no possibility of carrying out such a project next fall or winter. Upon agreement from the F.I. Natl Sect. to inform all branches and members at large of the drive and the urgency to obtain subs to supplement the work of Labor Challenge. Quotas to be set later.

--Discussion on the serious financial situation confronting the party and press and the substantial debt already incurred. Motion that in the light of the above situation ~~that~~ we skip the August issue of the paper.

--Motion that in view of the urgent need for funds ~~this~~ this year's financial drive commence the first of September and continue until November 15. That the objective this year be raised to \$1,750.00. That all funds raised in excess of this amount be utilized to finance a delegate to represent the Canadian party at the World Congress of the F.I. slated for ~~this~~ late this fall.

--Vancouver..Report that all N.C. members in Vancouver have concurred with recommendation that they set themselves up as a temporary B.C. Organizing Committee to implement the building of branches in that province and coordinating where possible the activities of the members at large. Motion that this committee investigate the possibilities of sending a responsible comrade on an organizational and speaking tour in B.C. and other western provinces this fall if possible. No further word on the recommendation that the Vancouver branch hold a public Trotsky Memorial meeting. Position outlined by Natl Sect in correspondence with branch secretary, re the recent developments in the B.C. trade union movement to participate in political action outside of the CCF, endorsed by the Political Committee.

--Toronto..Motion that branch be urged to conduct street corner meetings the coming summer months and that it investigate the possibilities of conducting some serious organizational work in the nearby industrial cities of Hamilton and Oshawa through paper distributions and public meetings etc. Branch holding a Trotsky memorial meeting August 28th.

--Report by Natl Sect. on conversation with DW(P.C. member) wherein he stated his desire to drop out of party activity for alleged reasons of ill-health Attempts to have him attend P.C. meetings in the past few months have been futile. Motion that DW be suspended from P.C. if further attempts to activate him prove fruitless. Discussion on the unfavourable situation confronting the P.C. now that DW inactive and MD taking up residence in Montreal. Motion that Ntl Sect once again raise the matter with AM of his coming to centre if at all possible

Discussion on European Relief activities...Report on activities of Toronto and Montreal along this line...high cost of shipments. Motion that the branches function as branches of the American Committee ~~XX~~ For European Workers Relief and that a drive for clothing and funds for shipping and food be commenced early in the fall once the party financial drive is well underway. Branches to be urged to investigate the possibilities of involving sympathizers in this vital work and hold bazaars etc. in the late fall

--Internal Bulletin reported to be almost completed. Motion that Trotsky's conversations with JRJ on the transitional program be included. U.S. bulletin being circulated in party. Toronto branch has had several internal educationals on the transitional program and the nature of the USSR. No reports on pre-world conference discussion from Vancouver branch.

July 5 1947

(George B. S.W.P.)

Joe Rosenthal

Dear Comrade Brietman;

I am dropping you this letter on behalf of Comrade Rosenthal.

I suppose you received the cartoon alright and of course the enclosed sketches. Your request happened to hit Joe at a good time. He was not particularly tied up with anything else so he set right down and turned it out. I hope it fits your specifications. Unfortunately I never had a chance to talk to Joe before he went to work or perhaps together we might have worked it up a little more. Joe did not bother trying to do anymore than you ordered but worked on another idea related to the ~~XXXXX~~ assignment. We did not send the other cartoon he turned out as the idea was a little hay-wire. The sketches are a few ~~XXXXX~~ odds and ends that Joe thought might be of use in the PI as decoration or perhaps even in the Militant.

He would like to know if you could use anymore odd sketches and if you have any that you would like done in particular.

Even though Joe might be quite busy in the future I am of the opinion that you need not give him near so much advance notice as you have ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ on the last occasion. He is a very fast worker once he gets down to the drawing board. If you airmailed the idea immediately after the editorial board meeting I am quite sure that he can make the next issue and not the one following. After thinking it over I am also of the opinion that it would be best if you take this up to give quite precise details of just what you want. Joe could follow these instructions right to the letter and any other ideas he or we all might have could be done on another drawing. ~~TTTTTWW~~ We could then send both cartoons and you could take your choice. This way you would be guaranteed one with the precise line you desired and perhaps an even better one that Joe could work up. Of course Evelyn could easily make any minor changes necessary.

We mailed that package Tuesday afternoon July 1st. Could you tell us how long it took to get there. I understand from Ruth such packages in the past have not ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ been held up by the customs. I sent it first class mail and purposely did not mark what its contents were on the outside in the hope that it would go right through.

Have you any criticisms of the Wall Street Pirate.

Sincerest regards

Ross Bowson

July 7 1947)

Dear Morris;

We have been expecting to see you walk in the door any day for the past 5 months. It must be prior to January that we last saw you. What is the situation, have the wholesalers so much stock on hand that it is no longer necessary to make buying trips.

We had a very profitable and pleasant visit from Don and Kleanor last week. They spent their holidays here and incidently gave us a little hand in our sub-campaign. Don has ditched his job at the brick yard and is now going to try to get inot Ford or one of the plants that ~~XX~~ is organized by Local 195. Apparently Kleanor has been devoting all her time in the Detroit branhc but we had quite a discussion trying to convince her that she should spend all her time that is in excess of what her union calls for in Windsor where it can be more fruitful in the long run. I am confidnet that with Don in the UAW and with some aid from Kleanor we will be able to start work on the Windsor branch. Before he left Don managed to obtain 50 Odd suhs in Windsor, one of them id from a fellow that I believe he has spoken to you about.

My impression is that Don has advanced considerably since we last saw him. He is certainly strongly attached to our movement and ideas and is ~~more~~ more mature and stable. Very responsible financially also. My young brother Hugh, I believe you have met him, is now seriously talking about going to Windsor to live and work. He has a great deal to learn but in contact with the Detroit comrades I think he will pick up rapidly and be of substantial aid in building up Windsor. He is thinking about going there this fall.

You will find enclosed along with a financial report a little slip of paper which is supposed to detail each branch's status as regards to dues, pledges, and Internal bulletin account. Of course you's is quite blank except for a few Internal Bulletins that we have sent you. There have been may more come out but I have not sent them to you as I figured you must get over to Detroit occassionaly to pick them up.

No doubt you are very busy and find it difficult to write. I have already suggested to Don that he drop around and pick up some money from you, as you can see we are badly in need of it. It would be very helpful if when ~~you~~ Don calls around next time you could give him some money.

If everything goes well I may possibly get around to see you on August 16 or 17 as I am planning to go to the Mid-West Camp for the Organizer's Institute. I am looking forward to seeing you. What do you think of the paper lately? We have been receiving very favourable comments. Give my regards to the family

Comradely

Ross.

1200 - James Ross
E4 1944-57 MRL
July 9 1947

(Downs, MRL)
Dear Murray;

Enclosed is a circular letter on the financial situation etc. I believe I gave you the separate little slip we are sending out when you were here last. Enclosed you will also find a group of expired subs in the area.

Thanks for the note on the Human Rights committee. I was unaware that there were hearings being held on it until you mentioned it. However I have since seen a report that the committee ~~IX~~ has refused to hear Lacroix on his resolution to ban the LPP and that it will be re-presented for the next session of the House. Since ~~the~~ close of this session of the house appears to be only a very short way off and the Lacroix bill will not be heard I think it would be better to leave our demand to be heard until the next session.

Have you been able to arrange the first meeting of our new branch?

I hope you received the two issues of the Tribune that I forwarded the other day. When you are finished with them will you return them for the files. We have sent the Wallace article into the printers and are getting to work now on the paper as the final dead-line is the 14th.

Will you keep the Declaration of Principles in mind when you have the time

comradely



Ross

We are intending to write an article on the Sask CCF Government. I seem to recall hearing of some anti-union actions and statements by prominent officials with regards to the CCL in some of the government's industries. Has Jean any information on this that he could give us.

Would you ask him if he is all set for the summer camp and if he is coming through Toronto on the way. If he has the car he could pick us up. If he has not we might be able to arrange a place for him with Sam Marcy of Buffalo who is trying to arrange a car ride from there for us.

July 21 1947

Dear Murray;

A very interesting item appeared in last Friday's Globe and Mail. According to the report The Tobacco Workers International Union Local 235 have just won a sliding scale of wage contract with MacDonald Tobacco Company of Montreal. All other terms of ~~their~~ settlement appear to be very poor, only a five cent an hour increase, 45 hour week etc., and the scale only grants a increase of 25 cents a week for every one point rise in the government cost of living index. Can you obtain more information on this? We should certainly report it in the next issue of the paper (deadline August 11th)

We received in the mail, on Friday I guess it was, two double spaced pages of copy dated July 15 from some unknown person in the city of Quebec. One is a short report on the Canadian Legion convention held there at which the person who wrote the note says he was a delegate. The other reports that the fascist L30bserveateur has recently printed an attack against the Trotskyist newspaper (apparently L.C.) and links Lenin and Trotsky together thus "giving the lie to the Trotsky-Fascist slander of the LPP. The line of both these letter is quite good. We intend to print the latter one in the paper. The former reports how a well known Stalinist denied he was a member of the LPP ~~and~~. It also reports Walsh's demagogic and successful attempt to get on the Provincial command. The person also sent in some of the newspaper clippings and appears to know the score. The letter came addressed to you. Do you know who it is. Oddly enough one of the clippings is from the Toronto Globe and Mail, the others are from the English press. Letter is post-marked Quebec.

Well, as you see by the paper the sub campaign was a great success. There are still more subs to come in from Vancouver but for some unknown reason they are holding them up... I think to mail the last issue from there. Kept the press run down to 2500 and did not have one hundred copies over. Have not counted the subscribers yet as there are still some plates to come in but there must be almost 2000. Bought two more trays and need another one anyway. Hope you can do a good job on the F.I. drive. There is a letter with this one on the new rates as you see it is now unfortunately a ~~new~~ bi-monthly. I suppose you have heard that Johnson has left the W.P. I see he has an article in this issue of the Militant.

We may have got three hundred subs from Vancouver but we also have a lot of trouble. I received a letter from Reg this morning packed full of ~~complaints and resolutions~~ phony resolutions. I am going to relate them to you as we should discuss them before any further action.

"the branch urges that party names be assigned and that they be used in all documents where prudence against unforeseen developments dictates caution" They protest that it is not turning the party's face inward and accept all my arguments but insist that they are necessary

"because of the danger inherent in written linkage of names of party members with plans and tactics of the party". Here I think we must be firm in our national ~~Party~~ policy....do not assign party names and oppose it in principle...if they insist let them go ahead in their own branch but make our attitude clear.

The branch has suddenly become very concerned about the fate of Labor Challenge and the missing of the August issue. They urge the P.C. to reconsider this decision and if such a move is necessary that it be applied to an issue later in the year...further..."that the branch protests the taking of this decision without prior consultation with N.C. members"...."that all possible sacrifices should be made in other directions in an effort to preserve continuity of publication"....That the P.C. forward a monthly financial statement showing a breakdown of expenditures(cost of paper, office expenses, subsidies, etc.)"

~~Now~~ Does'nt it leave you speechless. This is of course the first information that we have that any of the N.C. members oppose skipping the August issue and then only by implication. Their branch seems to be of the opinion that the National Committee is a bunch of bookkeepers whose accounts are subject of their scrutiny at anytime...and that the N.C. can take no decisions without ~~its~~ consultation and approval from them. I think that we should give an accounting of expenses to the N.C. and tell the branch in a nice way to go to hell. They still cant seem to get it into their head that it costs money to put out a paper and that that may be possibly a deciding factor. On second thought I think we should send them a nice long letter once again informing them of their pitiful financial contributions and sketch in beside this the monthly costs of printing the paper and telling them just to add two and two together and figure out what makes a decision of this kind. In this same letter also make it clear the relationship of the N.C. to the membership between conventions.

They had a ~~discussion~~ discussion on my letter on the matter of the B.C. federation of Labor and ~~the success of~~ its running candidates. "The branch as a whole is in fundamental disagreement with the position outlined. In brief, the position is unreal in the face of the existing relationship of forces in B.C. and the text implicitly reveals a change in orientation with regard to the CCF". The branch passed the following resolution; That it questions the procedure and the authority to change basic line of party without discussion in the branches.-i.e. reorientation on policy of critical support of the CCF".

It seems that several comrades will be sending in material for this coming bulletin that will possibly deal with the immediate questions above. possibly immigration and I don't know what. I am dropping you this line to let you know what the situation is and I would like to hear what you have to say on the various questions and what you think should be the course of action.

Let's hear from you as soon as possible about above and other matters you have not yet taken up from previous correspondence.

Sincerely regards

Ross

July 21 1947

Dear Don;

Very glad to hear that you have finally got into the UAW. How is the job coming along. I hope the plant is not too small that it limits your contacts. Yes, possibly there are some advantages to getting into some other plant than Ford. I am not sure just what your brother could do but I can imagine that he could make it rather tough for you...but the matter of factions. I am sure that you will find that 195 is much the same as 200. The Stalinists and the CCF are both quite strong there from what I hear. I know that it is going to be a big job and that it is going to be difficult at times to demarc ourselves from these two unprincipled factions. However with the log and sticky record that both forces have I am sure that there will be many workers who would grasp at a clear cut militant line. There must be a great confused group of workers in both locals whom the Stalinists fool with their radical talk and disillusion with their conciliatory actions. I am sure that with the advice that you can obtain from the Detroit comrades and your own knowledge which is more extensive than you even think you will be able to do an effective job there and make substantial progress in building the Canadian party. It is better of course to get into a bigger shop because your contact is wider. Also of course the bigger plants are the scene of more militant strike actions. Many small plants are by-passed by the class struggle and hitch hike in on the gains won by Ford, Chrysler, etc. If the plant is extremely small there is a personal relationship between the workers and the bosses that saps the workers militancy and blocks him from seeing his real relationship with the boss as was the case in the brick yard. I do not know how big this plant is but no matter what its size I think you have made a good start to some serious work in Windsor.

I am very sorry to hear about Eleanor and her attitude to the Canadian party. I can scarcely believe that Frank said what she informs you he did. If he did say that anyway the Canadian workers will follow the American workers I am sure that he did so in a very light-minded attitude. I am absolutely sure that this is not his considered opinion and was possibly tossed off as a joke or wise-crack. I think you are absolutely correct in your opinion. Capitalism is so corrupt on a world scale that no one can say that the Canadian revolution or any other revolution will tail this or that revolution. I think we could venture to speculate that the European or Colonial revolution will precede the U.S. Canadian but between these two who knows. It is not at all excluded that the Canadian workers will spark the American revolution. The class struggle does not develop evenly. As an example; the Canadian workers are more politically conscious than the American workers at this moment....witness the CCF and the call for an American labor party. Let us suppose that the American revolution breaks out prior to the Canadian revolution. Failure of it to spread to Canada or the subsequent defeat of the Canadian revolutionary party would seriously imperil the American victory. Canada could be well transformed into a counter-revolutionary base.

The logic of Eleanor's attitude would be as you suggest to advise the entire international to move lock stock and barrel into the U.S. and let the rest of the world "follow the American workers". I will certainly have a talk with comrade Frank when I see him at the summer camp in a few weeks time. I would also suggest that if you see him again that you should pose the question quite sharply with him. I am sure that Eleanor has misunderstood him and that he will be glad to have the opportunity to straighten the situation up.

If you really wish to pursue the affair further, although I myself would be satisfied to straighten it up with Frank, I see no reason why you should not write to Comrade Cannon for his opinion on the matter. I believe that he will agree with the few remarks that you and I have both outlined in our letters. For my own part I do not believe that Eleanor takes this idea seriously anyway and that it is only an attempt to justify her action which have other motivations. Eleanor is too intelligent and experienced to really believe this stuff. I would hesitate to attempt to put my finger on the root of it all as I do not know Eleanor very well except as a serious revolutionary workers. One of her real reasons I would speculate is that she does not desire to do the necessary ~~mass work~~ pioneer work but wants to participate in a powerful branch that is doing mass work in the labor movement...there are no doubt other ~~reasons~~ reason also. Perhaps for a while longer you will have to do the job yourself with only limited help from Eleanor. Once you get going in the union and pick up some good contacts I am hopeful that she will change her attitude.

first
I would not be too disappointed about that young CCFer. The person whom you are going to pick up is going to in all probability going to be a difficult one to find. We are going to meet what appear to be probable candidates but it takes an exceptionally fine type of worker to do the real pioneer job. When a party is very small, has a host of enemies and has a big task before it it takes some one with real ~~gut~~ guts to do the job and with a lot of understanding which few people get until they are trained in the party for some period. When you get him you will know it. His addition to yourself will not merely make it that we have two revolutionists in Windsor. It will be more than one and one makes two. It will be one and one makes four and five. The first few are going to be the toughest. Once you get them you will go ahead like a house afire. You will then have something to work with, they will all have contacts and influence etc.

I hope that by now you have received The Decline of American Capitalism I was very glad to see that you won it. It is an excellent book. Corey's real name was Louis Frisna, he was one of the founders of the C.P. He is now an intellectual renegade...but that book is very good and was written prior to his complete collapse. You did an excellent job in the drive and really deserved the prize. Perhaps we can celebrate it when I come through to the camp.

Hugh is leaving for the camp on Friday night I believe. I have not heard the details but I understand he plans to spend the week-end with you if at all possible

warmest regards to both of you

comradely

Ross Dowson

July 23, 1947

of the F.I.
Dear Murray:

Enclosed are the IS newsletter reports on the developments in the youth sections in the Socialist Parties in Europe; plus one very brief report from the Militant, on the French Socialist youth.

We think you are aware of developments so far--that we can allow 5 to 6 pages for your round-up on the tendencies in the youth sections. We'll subordinate all other news from France, Italy, etc., unless the scene changes suddenly.

Could you have the article in by August 6? We want to get the ~~paper~~ paper off the press fairly early, since there's been such a long gap because of the missing issue.

Warmest regards,

(Ruth Benson)

Ruth

You will find an envelope addressed to Tom in this letter. It contains amongst other things a letter which I am sending off to Vancouver in reply to Reg's report from the branch of July 17th. I am sending you Reg's letter so you will be on the inside..return it here as soon as you read it. If you agree with the letter on finances addressed to the Vancouver branch just seal the letter and send it off the Tom. It is going to Tom as I understand Reg is out of town. If you do not think it is ok rewrite it or make corrections and send it back to us.

HP

(Ross D.)

Dear Murray;

Just a note as I want to get the enclosed document in Jean's hands for translation as soon as possible. I have a general idea of the contents but would like a precise one. Jean can sit down at the typewriter and type it as he translates.

I can't see anything else of importance at the moment except that Jeanette is complaining that you don't write, I am trying to get Lloyd's speech on trade union problems that he delivered at the April conference but have had no word. We have the coming Internal Bulletin well underway now. So far it includes a document by Harry on the Jewish question. He takes a Zionist position. We are enclosing as a reply Jaffe's article that appeared in the U.S. bulletin. It is a perfect answer and many comrades seem not to have seen it. I can see no use in our writing a reply. It also included the two page letter that I am sending you herewith written by Trotsky on trade union tactics. The American party is circulating this letter to all their branches. I have written a few pages on our election experiences for the bulletin. I figure that they may be valuable to other branches. I also intend to write a report of activities and achievements since the founding convention....I will do this as soon as we get the coming issue of the paper away.

*in reply to
S. Jaffe
at J. J.*

It appears as if Dick is through. He has asked to be dropped from the branch. I think I have finally fixed it so he can get to a P.C. meeting this Monday. I do not think we will get anywhere with

him though as his mind seems to be made up that he is an old man .
I suggested that he play a passive role in the branch attending
only membership meetings and giving the branch the benefit of his
experiences but this isnt even satisfactory. He goes fishing every
week-end and appears to be the picture of health.

Can you let me have the translation as soon as possible. Have
you anything for the internal bulletin? It would be well if you
could get to work on the Declaration of Principles as soon as
possible. Have heard no word from any of the B.C. comrades on
the proposal of the Organizational Committee. ~~XXX~~ Angus sent a letter
to Paddy in which he states he disagreed with Ruth's article on immi-
gration but it is difficult to understand the basis. I am going to
take it up further.

Having a P.C? meeting on Monday ...is there anything you or
Jean have to say on anything

Comradely



Ross

(Jean-Marie Bédard)

5

August 1 1947

Dear Murray;

Since you did not return the triple spaced letter that I drew up to send to Vancouver poste haste I gather that you must have gone up to Hull direct, although I gathered from your letter that you had expected to leave only on the week-end.

Any day now you may get a letter from some Ukrainian fellows in Montreal. It appears that two chaps, one a former member of the Ukrainian section of the W.P., came to Toronto last week for a short visit to Nic's. Nic took them down to the headquarters to meet someone of us but it happen that just that night ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I ~~was~~ out getting subs for the F.I.. As a matter of fact I landed up at Nic's place at the very time he was downtown looking for me. They called in at your place and Ruth gave them the address in Montreal. It appears that they heard about our mayoralty campaign. Nic gave them a copy of the paper. I gather from Mary's husband that they are very anxious to get in touch with us and do some work although Mary is not so sure that they do want to work. At any rate they seemed to be very impressed by the paper and it seems certain that they are going to try to contact you.

I am enclosing with this letter a complete listing of subs in the ~~XXXXXX~~ Montreal district. It should be very useful to you for the F.I. campaign. Why not give Ken and Jim this little job for something to do. If we hit persons who would prefer a French language organ we could sell subs to the Quatrieme Internationale. Do you want us to order some copies of this pamphlet on Indo-China published by the I.S.? I am sending it in the same mail as this letter. If so, How many?

I am also enclosing a clipping from the Telegram reporting on Jean's fight against the Catholic Syndicates. It looks to me as if this would be very good material to ~~KKK~~ take up the role of the syndicates. We have never ever handled this question and from what I can see from the report this presents us with a good opportunity. We are giving over three and a half in the coming issue of the paper for the story if you agree that it is worthwhile. Let us know in the next mail if you do not think it is suitable or cannot handle it so that we can make any necessary switches.

Would you take up the pile of details that you have been promising to answer as soon as you possibly can, including the list of pamphlets in French and their prices....we want to advertise these in the coming issue.

Received another newsletter today and there was no more material in it for your article on the Socialist youth

All the best

What day will ^{you} be here on ?



August 12 1947

Dear Murray;

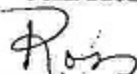
Received your article on the socialist youth alright ...it is excellent. The last two articles that you have sent in seem to me to be better and better. You must have forgotten our enquiries about the tobacco workers sliding scale in Montreal. We wrote it up from a Globe and Mail article as we needed something positive for this issue.

The paper should be out tomorrow. I will send you the business first thing so that you can get it on the stand before you leave. It is a very heavy issue but the material is written in quite a popular manner. I wrote a 10 page article on the CCF in Sask. The shocking conduct of the CCF administrators in the Prince Albert box strike gave us an excellent opportunity to take up the Sask CCF which as you know we have neglected to deal with up until now. I am afraid that this article is going to be quite a shock to the Vancouver comrades however I wrote it with extreme care and think that it is ok. Both Ruth and Paddy approve of it. The material in it is dynamite.

I phoned Mary just before ^I wrote about those Ukrainians fellows but she did not know their address. Nic knows but I have been unable to catch him in. I guess it can wait until you get here as I am really tied up trying to clear up details before going to the Camp. By the way you have not yet told us whether Jean is coming. I suppose if he is you would be coming with him as far as Toronto and we will not be leaving till you get here so it doesn't matter. I hope he can come as it will be an excellent experience for him. Put all pressure on him possible.

Friday is alright to arrive here. Can you get a train that will bring you in early in the evening so that we can talk over a few details Friday evening and Ruth and I could leave Saturday morning. I would like to leave Saturday as Don wants me to stay a while in Windsor.

comradely


Ross

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS P Y
87 King St. West, Rm. 5
Toronto 1, Ontario
August 29, 1947

*Considered at
meeting Sept 3rd*

TO ALL BRANCHES AND MEMBERS AT LARGE

Dear Comrades:

In the September issue of Labor Challenge we have announced the launching of our yearly financial drive. The campaign commences Sept. 1 and closes 2 1/2 months later on Nov. 15. The objective, \$1750, is the minimum amount necessary to finance our press for the coming year. We are confident that all comrades and friends of the party and of our press will rally to our aid and oversubscribe the objective.

With this letter we are recommending the following quotas to create a comradely competitive spirit in the party and set a mark to aim at. These quotas have been estimated on the experiences of last year's campaign, taking into consideration all changes in the local situations that are known to us. We ask all branches to accept these quotas and if at all possible to revise them upwards.

	<u>Raised in 1946 campaign</u>	<u>1947 objective</u>
Toronto		
Toronto	884.60	875.00
Vancouver	150.00	300.00
Montreal	300.00	350.00
Windsor	70.00	75.00
Prince Rupert	31.00	25.00
Alberta	21.25	50.00
Saskatchewan	20.00	25.00
Britannia Beach	4.00	15.00
Magna Bay	15.00	15.00
Milnes Landing	20.00	20.00
	<u>1525.85</u>	<u>1750.00</u>

Many of the quotas are same amount as that raised in last year's drive. We are asking the Toronto branch to accept half of the national objective. Although it will be noted that they raised slightly more than this amount last year, Toronto's monthly sustaining pledge stands very high and we do not feel able to demand more of these comrades. We are confident however that they will once again go well over their objective. The Montreal quota has been increased slightly and we are asking Vancouver to accept a \$300 quota, which we believe to be realizable for a branch of its size and influence. The \$1750 must be raised if we are to continue the publication of our press on the present basis.

The bulk of this sum will of necessity have to come from our own comrades. The campaign will last for 11 weeks. All comrades should immediately make a pledge and commence deducting this amount from their weekly pay envelopes and turn it over to the person appointed by the branch to manage the drive. The campaign manager of the branch should immediately forward the money to the National Office.

In the past year considerable headway has been made in building a

sympathetic periphery through the sub campaign and other activities. A considerable sum of money can be raised from these persons, many of whom are extremely anxious to help us in maintaining our press. Comrades should be struck off to solicit contributions from these persons.

We are urging that both the Vancouver and Toronto branches run raffles which will permit us to raise funds from much broader fields. Toronto's raffle of last year cleared \$127.10. We also urge both these branches if at all possible to hold a Labor Challenge banquet at the close of the campaign which will more firmly cement our relationships with our friends and sympathizers.

We have commenced this campaign earlier than we had originally intended. We were compelled to do so due to the fact that during last year's financial drive, sustaining fund payments to the National Office dropped off seriously. The net gain for the party was therefore not \$1500 but much closer to \$1000. The regular sustaining pledges must be maintained during the campaign.

We have cut the campaign to 2½ months in order to avoid a conflict with Christmas expenditures. This is none too much time. It is necessary for all comrades to make their pledges as soon as possible and commence making weekly payments on it. Sympathizers should be contacted immediately to obtain lump sums or pledges collectible on a weekly basis. If the branches are able to hold raffles, books should be printed at once.

Next month will be the first anniversary of the founding of our party. Since we took that great step forward, we have conducted two national campaigns. Both were overwhelming successes. We have already demonstrated that we can do what is necessary to be done.

Comradely yours,

R. Dowson
Ross Dowson, for the PC

P.S.

The NC has decided that any funds collected over and above the \$1750 will go towards sending a leading comrade to represent the RWP at the coming World Congress of the Fourth International.

Present---R.D., G.S., R.B.,.....M.D. absence explained.

- Ntl. Sect. reported that entire National Committee ~~was~~ in concurrence with suspension of LW from M.C. for inactivity.
- Letter from English section requesting the RWP to ~~APPROX~~ bring pressure upon the I.S. to revise its attitude "in condoning the splitting of the British section". The British majority lays a splitting charge against the minority for its proposal that it should be permitted to enter the Labor Party under the guidance and discipline of the I.S. National Sect. instructed to write Comrade Heston that the Canadian C.C. does not consider the Minority proposal ~~is~~ a splitting tactic since the minority has not indicated any tendency to leave the line, discipline or direction of the International.....and that it also does not intend to bring any pressure upon the I.S. for its alleged "condoning the splitting of the British Section". Reported that the IEC is meeting shortly, will no doubt consider the minority proposal and will forward further information.
- West Coast
~~XXXXXX~~ Proposal from ~~XXXXXX~~ M.C. members that J.B. be co-opted to P.C. reported. This is interpreted to mean that they propose that a Montreal comrade ~~XX~~ be co-opted to the Political Committee. Secretary to enquire further. pointed out that if this is so it is hardly practical as the only contact with Montreal is via mail...the occasional trip that J.B. and P make into the centre is always the occasion of an enlarged P.C. meeting.
- Reported that West Coast N.C. members urge that a formal statement be sent ~~XXXXXX~~ out under the name of the P.C. on the problems that have arisen in connection with the B.C. Federation of Labor and political action. Four N.C. members record that they "are opposed to any support for the enunciated policy of the Central AC of the B.C. Federation of Labor (CCL) (i.e. direct nomination of P.U. candidates for electoral offices, provincial or federal-in B.C.)"
- Motion that the next bulletin be devoted to discussion of this question and that all comrades be urged to make contributions towards its clarification. Motion that the P.C. withhold making a formal statement on the matter until the discussion in the party gets further underway and the political problems involved become clarified. M.D. reports that he is preparing a reply to the R.B. and LW. statements.
- Financial drive....letter sent out with ~~XX~~ recommended quotas. Toronto and Windsor have already accepted the ~~ir~~ quotas.

September 16 1947

Dear Murray;

Your check just arrived on time. The printer is putting the squeeze on us for more dough. As you know we have been keeping him quiet with one hundred dollar checks per issue. The result is that we are steadily climbing up again. Sent your check right up to him to keep in good. You marked this check sustaining. I gather you mean it to go to the monthly Montreal pledge. How did the comrades take to the idea of the financial drive quota. Can you send any of it in? Vancouver sent in a note that the comrades in the group itself had pledged upwards of two hundred dollars. Reg has taken over the campaign and they are apparently really getting down to the job of trying to get money out of ~~the~~ sympathizers etc. We have the raffle books out here in Toronto and it appears to be off to a good start. Internal pledges so far are around \$450 and there are two or three comrades yet to be heard from. If everyone can keep up the monthly sustaining pledges it looks like we will be alright as far as finances are concerned for a while.

I am enclosing a copy of a note that we received a few days ago. This fellow must be one of the Ukrainian chaps that Nic had here in Toronto a short while ago. We reviewed Stalinists on the Waterfront in the June issue which seems to me to be the probable issue that Nic gave to them. Here is your lead.

I have never ever sent Jean separate copies of the P.C. minutes however if you want us to do so we will commence with the next minutes. Can you give us an address to send them to or will we send them to you and have you turn them over.

I think it is a good idea to go down to Quebec but I also think that we should be able to get something more than just expenses. I think that we should really put the screws on Jean to work his expense account. After all we should not be expected to subsidize the Congress. I don't know why Jean is so reticent as none of the bureaucrats are ever going to question his padding for fear of their own exposure.

Will you send in your article for the bulletin as soon as possible. We will type it up if its finished. We have this week to get the bulletin out before we hit the next issue.

You will be glad to know that our first street corner meeting in 8 years was an overwhelming success. We held it on the corner of Brunswick and College last Saturday. We sold fifty copies of the paper at half time. We could have sold another fifty but we did not have them there. There was considerable interest in the meeting and at various times there must have been almost 100 people standing around. We plan to hold a few more before the cold spell comes. We also sold 36 copies of the last issue of the paper in the needle trade market. The CCF anti-semetic editorial has caused considerable interest ~~and~~ Harry has raised hell with it in the Alliance and the unions and the leadership has had Grube up on the mat demanding a retraction. We are holding a public meeting on the affair this Friday and are trying to get Federam and other on the platform. We have mailed copies of the last issue to all the needle trade unions

whose addresses we could obtain. Many went to the Montreal area.

I sent to the box a few days ago a pile of stuff that came in from France. You might just as well keep the complete file of French internal bulletins etc there as it is very difficult for us to go through them and I have not got the time now even to read what English material comes in. When you go through them will you keep your eyes open for anything that we should take action on, or any important information and send us a synopsis

I guess that is all for now. Hope you can get the material for the bulletin in this week.

Warmest regards

Ross

September 16 1947

Dear Don;

We have received your 15 dollars for the sustaining fund alright. I have been delayed in replying by the last issue of the paper and some ~~XXXXXX~~ activities that we have been planning.

I am glad you like our party. I think it is a pretty good start myself and we are only at the beginning. Yes I think that you are right about the value of a young cadre such as ours although it has also some serious set-backs for along with our youth and energy goes a political immaturity..political inexperience. While it is true that these comrades will pick up our ideas quicker and become more firm in their convictions than the average older comrade who has to gouge out of his mind a whole pile of crap there is also the difficulty that this youth ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and inexperience is for the party while it is in the process of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ developing. For instance we are terribly hard up for comrades who can present our ideas in a rounded fashion from the platform etc. The burden on the few comrades who are more or less experienced is very great. However the bright part of the picture is that ~~XXXXXX~~ many of these young comrades are developing ~~XXX~~ very rapidly and I do not doubt for a moment that some of them will outstrip by far ~~XXXXXX~~ many of the older comrades.

In a small group such as ours there is always the tendency to turn the party inwards ~~XXX~~. These younger comrades with their enthusiasm certainly help to keep the party turned outwards and on its toes.

Glad to see that you dropped in on MB. I think you should do so more often. Persons in his position are always in danger of dropping away especially when isolated. The fact that MB did not demonstrates that he is really a remarkable person. ~~XXX~~ You can keep him and bring him much closer and as I have remarked before learn a considerable amount from him. Don't worry, any dough he has I won't be at all reticent in claiming for the RWP.

By the way, I meant to tell you last time you were here. I hope you are doing the odd little job to help the Detroit branch...nothing of course that would endanger your attending any of their activities. or nothing that would mena that you have to ditch work that should be done in Windsor. But it would be well that you help them whenever you can so that the feeling doesn't arise that we are only using them for all we can get out of them....after all the SWP is our party...our American party.

I think that you will be interested to hear about some of our recent activities here in Toronto. Last Saturday we held the first street-corner meeting that the 4th has held in Canada in 8 years. It was terrific. Paddy, Joe, and I spoke. We set up our chair on the corner of College and Brunswick. The crowd rose at various times during the meeting to about 100 people. All were very interested and very friendly. Many stayed on their feet for the whole meeting. We took up 50 copies of the paper and a few pamphlets. At half time we had sold

them all and I am sure that we could have sold as many more if we had them there. We also sold a few pamphlets and picked up a couple of names of interested persons. The day previous to the street corner meeting we took the paper up to the needle trades market and sold 36 copies in about half an hour. There were only 4 comrades selling and one of them was a little shy and backward and did not sell any. We have decided to hold a street corner meeting once a week until the weather forces us inside. This spring if we are able and someone can get down to give you a hand we should try a few such meetings in Windsor.

We are really giving the CCF a going over for their anti-semitic editorial. The entire jewish trade union movement has risen up and is putting a hell of a lot of pressure on the CCF leadership to repudiate it. We are holding a meeting in the Lyceum on Friday to carry the campaign forward and identify our party with the fight against anti-semitism

all for now

revolutionary greetings

Ross

S sept. 19, 1947

Dear Murray:

We had our editorial board meeting this morning, and have the paper pretty well lined up. Would it be possible for you to write the anniversary article on the founding of the KWP? In our discussion, we decided that the general line of it should be to explain why we are a separate party---we have received several letters criticizing the division of the working class into rival parties, etc. The main emphasis would be on our internationalism, pointing out how the nationalism of the Stalinist and Social Democratic parties (including the CCF and IPP) cripples and disorients the struggle of the workers for socialism. The Australian Labor Party delegate's statement at the ~~Fritz~~ Toronto conference, that they would not allow Negroes, Chinese or Japanese into Australia, is a good example.

The maximum space for the article will be six pages, and the deadline Friday morning, Sept. 26.

We held our meeting last night to protest the CCF anti-Semitic editorial, which has not yet been retracted (although the CCF has offered two wishy-washy statements for the approval of the Jewish Alliance--the second, and "stronger" one, not even mentioning the editorial's anti-Semitism! It says only that the editorial was "false" and "not the line" of the CCF). The audience was even smaller than we had expected; the Zionist youth, whom we thought might turn out in defiance of the adult organizations, didn't attend. But the publicity we received for the party by the distribution of our leaflets in the garment areas, was well worth the effort. The issue has raised a great deal of discussion, although the opposition to the editorial was fatalistic and passive; we certainly became much better known as a result of our efforts. Harry, Joe Maslin, and Ross spoke, with Bert in the chair. The Alliance sent down three observers! And Mel Colby of the Tribune dropped in to "cover" the meeting--had quite a chat with the speakers, took notes that he'll never use, etc. I don't think they'll even try to discredit the meeting by misrepresentation--much more likely the Stalinists will completely ignore it. They may possibly have intended to use it for their own ends when they sent him down, but it's hard to see how they could!

How is the article for the internal bulletin coming along? If we don't get it this week, it will be another two weeks before we can work on it, and we're afraid the B.C. comrades are getting more restive....let us know whether we should write the anniversary article here, to let you concentrate on the bulletin article.

Comradely,

October 2 1947

Dear Don;

We have just got the paper off the presses and sent you your bundle. Possibly you have received it by now and are wondering what happened to your letter. We had the paper already planned when we received it and were unable to find any place to squeeze it in. If we had had any other letters we could have perhaps dropped out some material to make room but I figure it makes little difference if we leave it until the coming issue. We have since received another letter and we will certainly put them both in the next issue.

I think that the letter is very good, not only as an exposure of a dirty capitalist lie about two working class heroes ~~ROBERTO CLARK~~ but an expose of capitalist censorship. It is also very timely. I wish we had been able to pay tribute to Sacco and Vanzetti ~~IN~~ in our paper but we seem to be having a terrible time with the last few issues trying to cover other very important matters. ~~IN~~ In order to get it into the paper without letting letters to the editor take over the paper in its entirety we will have to cut it a little. It is now three and a half written pages in small script and that is quite long. I think there are a couple of places we could drop a few lines without ~~hurt~~ hurting the content and spirit of the letters. One place is the two paragraphs in the letter to the Star where you take up the role of this rat Clarke. All that you say in that second ~~para~~ paragraph is very true but not vital to the letter and I think could be omitted. Do you give us a free hand ???

I am glad to see that you sent the letter to the Star and sorry that they did not publish it. You will have to try again. I think it would be better however if you did not attempt to draw the full conclusions of what the capitalist press is and their columnists in a letter that you hope they will publish. It is more likely to be published if you just set the record straight, expose the columnists lies and let the reader draw the conclusions in their fullest sense.....there would be a greater possibility of it being published than ~~XXXXXX~~ in my opinion.

We are enclosing another letter ~~XXXXXX~~ with this, the quarterly sustaining fund report. I hope that it checks with your records of amounts sent in from Windsor.

Glad to see that you are making a little headway in the shop. Probably your line of action is the best on this contact. You can do a terrific job without feeding him party books but filling in the gaps yourself that available popular material may leave. I suppose there are lots of popular radical novels etc in Detroit. This work together with what you are doing for the Detroit branch---well, I just do not see any reason at all for you being depressed when you receive reports of our work or why they should magnify your "inactivities". You know that twenty people can do much more work than just 20 units of people added up together. It is easy for a branch to do a lot of work because we can coordinate all our energies and ~~XXXX~~ specialize the ~~XX~~ work just as the bosses do in a factory. My only regret is that we do not have 20 people here with your energy and fire.

Thanks for FIR. They have some powerful stuff on Reuther. I have not had a chance yet to really go through it but what I have seen of it leaves a very good impression. It will be interesting to watch its development to see what its positive position will be on many of the urgent problems confronting auto.

I see that it is not published openly as an Addes Caucus paper...who is giving it the push---the Stalinists?

Ruth is going to send away for the course that you mentioned. We will send it on as soon as we receive it. We just finished a course here in Toronto on dialectics ---it was given in three lectures by Joe Rosenthal....I think it was the first time he ever did any work on anything like this and he did quite a good job of it.

I have just phoned the Stalinists publishing house about Lenin's selected works(12 volumes) They do not ~~KEEP~~ have it in stock...fine thing. But the price will be about \$22 wholesale, perhaps a dollar or so more. You would have a tough time getting it across the border unless you took it volume at a time.

By all means let us know what you think of the material that has been appearing in the Internal bulletin when you have a chance. By the way Hugh will be getting his car next month. Why not drop him a line and tell him what you are doing, what the possibilities appear to be and so forth. He is still talking about going to Windsor the odd time but I think it would be a good idea for you to give him a little aid by letting him know what the score is. I know that he would really develop under the guidance of Mazey and other comrades who are working in the UAW.

Comradely

Ross

October 3, 1947

Dear Murray;

Rather suprised that you have not dropped us a line recently. ...particularly about the article that we thought you were going to have for us on "one year of the party". It so happened that the English paper came in on the Monday morning and there was an article on India which was fairly good so we were fortunately not stuck.

I gather from your silence that you must be working and have a job on your hands that is not any too easy. Jeanette tells me that you have not written her for a while. Did you get in steel? I see from the Steel Union paper that they are making considerable headway in Montreal area. I assume you received the tool box alright.

As soon as we received your article for the bulletin we rushed to the machine. Vancouver has not yet said anything about your contribution and I have received a long letter from Reg since they must have received it. We did not make any changes in it except for one place where you said something to the effect that there was a lull in Canada as in USA both economic and political. Ruth pointed out that there was a great political ferment around the labor party question which flowed from the economic lull. I figured that it was an oversight so we changed it there. At any rate it made no difference to the points that you were making. I think that it is very good and should help to put an end to some of their hysteria whenever anything happens that they do not quite see eye to eye with. We should be hearing a little more about it from them shortly....probably from Angus. This time I will take a stab at it.

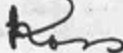
I am enclosing the French copy of the IEC report as THEY say we will be receiving an English translation shortly. The letter on the English decision is being sent out to all N.C. members because the Vancouver comrades took exception to the report of our reply to Haston on our position that the minority request was not a split etc. We thought that we would send it out to help clear the air.

In their last letter the Vancouver N.C. members suggest that an organizational report should be sent out. Since we are not able to hold a convention or even a plenum this year I think we should draw up such a report giving the highlights of last years work, development of the party, etc.

What do you want me to say about the Montreal situation? Perhaps it would be a good idea if you wrote it up for inclusion in the whole report as I do not know whether we have a branch there, regular meetings or what. How are we making out on the financial campaign. Are you going to be able to approach Wevrick and some of the other subscribers? If you cannot do it it seems to me that it would be a good job for Ken or Jim.

I think that is about all for now. Will you let us know if you can have that article for the next issue of the paper...

comradely



Ross

October 18 1947

Dear Farrell;

(Dobb, SWP, New York)

I wonder if you could give us any advise on the following or could turn the matter over to some comrade who is familiar with all the ins and outs of the situation and could fine find time to drop us a line.

We are in very close contact with a fellow who is an organizer in the CIO Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union. He has just shown us some material put out by a Committee for a Decent Democratic Trade Union which is being organized around Irving Abramson former National Director of Organization of that union.

Could you rush us back any information that you have on this committee what attitude our comrades are taking towards it (St Louis and elsewhere), What influence it has in the international.....our orienation towards it., Etc...

This chap for whom we wa t the information is a former W.P.er from the South who was sent up here for a speccail organizational drive in a large department sotre in town. I understand that he is a good friend of the lone Chicago Johnsonite who recently joined the SWP. We have been doing quite a job on him and have met with considerable success. The W.P. has given him the cold shoulder since he showed some interest in Johnson and have not replied to his mail. He is an excellent working class type who was never ~~was~~ a genuine W.P.er of the old school. He came to them by mistake. He agrees with Johnson on the American problem and is generally fuzzy on all other questions. He is convinced what with the recent W.P. manoeuver that his place is in the SWP and while in Canada in the RWP.

However he appears to be a little hesitant about making any decisive move. I have usggested that he take a week-end trip to N.Y. to straighten it all out. He is a serious fellow and wants to conduct himself in a responsible manner even with the W.P. One of the factors is that he expects to get run out of Canada by the union apparatus at any time. Failing the trip to N.Y. i suggested yesterday that he write the W.P. breaking off all connections, and immediately get in touch with you via Johnson or the national office, whichever he desires. He has just pledged a minimum of \$5 a week to the RWP while he is here. His name id Angus Summer. ~~XXXX~~ He will be a valuable addition to the SWP. I hope we can give him some help in orientating himself in the situation that is developing in the Retail clerks.

We have just received Reba's letter asking for a confidetail address for receipt of M.C. material. You could send such material to my home address.....225 Grenadier Road, Toronto 3, Ontario,.....under my name.

comradely yours

Ross Dowson

Political Committee MeetingOctober 21/47
Present---R.B., G., R.D.

--Report that West Coast N.C. members "believe that formality of co-opting J.B. to P.C. should be followed" despite explanation in last minutes. Natl. Secretary instructed to inform comrades that in opinion of P.C. this would be an empty formality as in its opinion the P.C. is only a functioning body of the N.C. and subject to it...it would be as logical to co-opt West Coast N.C. members to P.C. To follow this course would destroy the P.C. as a functioning body and in no way overcome its limitations that we are all only too conscious of.

2--Discussion on report of Vancouver branch activity around the fight against Bill 39 forwarded by L.M. Report confirms policy advanced by L.C. and analysis of Vancouver comrades. P.C. enthused by excellent work of the Vancouver branch the value of which is being reflected in the excellent response from the workers to the idea of a 24hr strike and the vicious Stalinist attacks against us. P.C. looking forward to the branch "holding public meetings under our party banner in the course of the struggle". The .C. requests that the Vancouver branch investigate the possibility of running candidates in the coming municipal elections to take advantage of the rising struggles. Reported that the branch is discussing the preparation of material to be published at a future date in a pamphlet on the party and its relation to the trade unions. P.C. urges that the material when prepared be first published in the party internal bulletin for discussion.

West Coast N.C. members request an organizational report. Motion that Natl Secretary prepare a report for the N.C. and a modification of it for publication in the next internal bulletin.

--West Coast N.C. members "take strong exception" to report of .C. action on British party correspondence as reported in minutes of Sept 3. "Should have been consultation with N.C. members"..."and a formal position developed on the question". Asst. Secretary reported that resolution on British section adopted at Fourth Plenum of IEC sent out to all N.C. members. Explanation given to West Coast comrades that .C. has to be given latitude to function or in this case in particular, by the time that the N.C. was able to make a "formal position" the request of the British section would have been answered ~~too late to be of value~~.

-- discussion on the request of the Windsor comrades that the A.C. investigate
the possibility of sending an able comrade to Windsor for a considerable
period to take advantage of the opportunities that exist there to build a
branch. Both D. and W. RABALA are in agreement with the comrades' desire to have
~~an excellent~~ ^a comrade of the opinion that the comrades must be
of a high caliber. Situation explained to both comrades who suggest that
Vancouver be investigated to find if someone could come east and that G.D. (Toronto)
be considered. J.C. of the opinion that U.S. cannot be spared from the centre
and that if Vancouver could send a comrade he should come to Toronto to
build up the centre. J.C. of the opinion that the immediate need is to build
the centre and educate and develop national leadership so that a later
date we can take advantage of opportunities in other industrial areas. J.C.
informed that one of the younger Toronto comrades (H.D.) has been talking about
going to Windsor. J.C. is of the opinion that this comrade would develop
considerably in contact with experienced trade unionists in Detroit. N.T. Sect
instructed to have discussion with H.D. and urge him to go to Windsor as
an opportunity for development and aid to Windsor.

--Discussion on recent documents from I.B. and IEC. P.C. solidarizes itself with ~~their~~ decisions of the 10th Plenum of IEC.

--Discussion IMF on emergency appeal for aid from I.C. to enable the holding of the World Conference. Eight thousand dollars urgently needed (approx.) I.C. of the opinion that it is not possible at this moment during the financial campaign to make a special appeal in the Canadian party or set a levy. Motion that immediately at the close of the campaign the I.C. set a levy on all party

members and make a special appeal for funds. In the meantime, that \$65 be advanced from the moneys on hand and forwarded to Europe. Discussion on the possibility of our failure to raise any substantial amount it might be necessary to skip an issue of the paper and turn over the savings to ~~aid the~~ help ensure the World Conference.

--Report on Labor Challenge financial drive. Total turned in as of Oct 21 was 719.50. Objective 1750.00. Editor already over its objective. Montreal with an objective of almost one sixth of the total reports only 80.00 collected Vancouver coming along fair, Toronto a trifle slower but it appears that the national objective will just be attained. Motion that a special appeal to our readers be printed in the next issue of the paper. That a letter be sent out to all branches and members at large outlining the situation and need for a little tightening up to reach the 1750 by Nov 15th

--Report on Toronto branch electoral plans. P.C. greets Toronto decision to run a candidate for Mayor and to extend the MI campaign this year by running a candidate for the Board of Control. Both candidates are elected on a city wide poll so that actual campaign cost need be little more than previously. Controller candidature gives the opportunity to run parallel with one of the national leaders of the Stalinist movement. Each elector has four votes for controller and we will probably be the only other labor candidate in the running. Candidate for Controller will be H. Clairmont and for Mayor M. Dowson (substitute R. Dawson)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-09-2001 BY SP-6 BTJ/KMP

--discussion on situation in Montreal. Monthly financial contributions have dropped seriously in past 6 months. Information on development of branch and activities of branch very sketchy. Netl lectry instructed to request a detailed report of situation and perspectives of group for the next .C. meeting

RDW Jan 6 1945
*
DUPLICATE

E4 1944-57 m2

October 22 1947

Dear Murray;

I have been delayed in answering your letter of the 14th. Last week we were tied up with the paper and have only just now managed to answer some other mail that had been piling up and had to be taken up first. I suppose in a way I should get the minutes of the P.C. ~~XXXXXX~~ meeting that was held ~~XXXX~~ yesterday particularly as there are several items that relate to the Montreal situation ~~INX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ but ~~XXXXXX~~ they will take me a while to line up and I know you must be wondering what is happening at this end.

Well in a way I am glad to hear that you have been sick the last month for having been editro of the paper you can imagine how we felt when for two issues we expected one of the key articles of the paper and never received it or any word of explanation. I hope you are now feeling better and we can get to work on some important items.

We had the editorail board meeting on Monday night and what with a ten page artivle on the Russian Revolution being written by Bill I think we can get along this issue without assigning you a heavy item. But we do want an article on the terrific wave of strikes that are taking place in Montreal. It would be good to have an interview with Jean ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Pick up some good statements that he has made or have him make them to the press. I understand that there was a city wide trade union committee set up to do battel against thevinjunctions. The Tribune has been full of strike reports. We have allowed three pages but if you need another take it. The final absolutely final dead line is Monday October 27 morning mail. If you cannot handle it let us know at once. By the way I do not recall telling you but about the only criticism that George Clarke said he could make of the paper was the lack of coverage of Quebec. We could always do with a serious analysis of developments in Quebec. it would be good if you could work on something when we do not give a heavy assignement.

How is the financial campaign. Do you know that there is now less than three weeks to go ~~XXX~~. Toronto is just going to make its objective and that is all and there will be no surplus from anywhere else so Montreal is key. We have just received an emergency call for funds from the I.S. and we had to answer this so financially things are not so good. I hope we can make the whole ^{today this line} Montreal objective. Have Jim or Ken done any work on some of the sympathizers we have there (Frank, Doctor, etc.) ~~XXX~~

I hate to raise this on top of it but if you remember we expected to be able to make the monthly pledge from Montreal go up when you went down there. For the last 6 months it has averaged exactly \$63.33 (April to September inclusive) Are Ken and Alice etc., drifting ~~XX~~ away from us?

If they are and we are no longer going to get up to the \$120.00 We must get together at once and revise drastically our budget. Either Ruth or I will have to get off the pay roll or get a part time job if we are to publish a twice monthly. For as you can see we are now \$360.00 down on our budget for only the last 6 months.

All this remind me that at the P.C. meeting we decided that we should have a discussion on the Montreal situation and our perspective there. First the P.C. wants a rounded report of what the situation is there as the Vancouver comrades are pressing for an organizational report. Since we could not hold a convention I think we must give them one and we know nothing of what is develop in Montreal...how the branch is getting along, what its activities are, what its perspective is etc. How about giving me this as soon as you write the article for the paper as we would like to get the organizational report out in the interval between the issues of the paper.

The P.C. has sAK also approved Toronto plans to run two candidates in the coming elections. Mayor and Board of Control. XX If we run + think we should run another candidate and running for co controller will require no extra literature except a bigger press run. Also puts the Stalinists on the spot as we will be running parallel to them. Harry has agreed to run for controller. The comrades want you to run for Mayor and if this is not possible that I should run. I was suprised to hear that you were not working in a shop but since this is so probably it would make it easier for you to come here let us say for the period Dec 20 to New Years. We could put on a much more effective campaign if this was possible and still get the issue of the paper off as we would have three full timers. Jeanette seems to be trying hard to get a place but with no success. At anyrate we will have to know shortly what we are going to do so lets hear what you think.

I seem to recall that there are many other items that I have raised in the last few letters that you have not taken up such as how that fellow is who bought the copies of Stalinism on the waterfront. How about assembling all the stuff together and writing us a real letter. Lloyd whalen has also asked for detailed information on what has been developing in the IWA situation .

the P.C. minutes should be out tomorrow and I will probably recall a few other matters that should be in this letter.

comradely

1947-Oct26 *(Transcribed from Ross Dowson's speech notes, undated, evidently 1947)*

"On the (30th) anniversary of the October Revolution"

For many decades the world capitalists tried to ignore the USSR. The military machines that they had led against it in 1918-1921 to destroy it in its infancy were smashed on the iron fist of Trotsky's Red Army, and the revolutionary solidarity of the world's oppressed. From then on they tried to ignore the great industrial expansion of the Soviet economy and the colossal experiments in education, collective farming, planned production and distribution.

The ideas and theories of great liberal American educationalists and scientists found their first extensive use in the land of the Soviets. While America dropped into the depths of a devastating depression, the discoveries of her scientists remained untouched. Millions of workers walked the streets. The great productive apparatus of Canadian and US industry remained idle. The forges, the looms, the lathes sat in empty factories. Farmers burnt wheat to keep warm.

Meanwhile despite bureaucratic waste and inefficiency, despite the poverty of industrial capacity and inexperience of her working class, Soviet industry pushed to new heights. In the brief span of years from 1917 the Soviet Union rose from one of the most backward and weakest of powers to emerge in 1947 as one of the strongest – second only to the power of capitalist United States.

The November 7, 1917 Revolution which we are celebrating tonight was the greatest single stride mankind has yet taken toward placing our social relations on a rational basis. When the Bolsheviks under Lenin and Trotsky were given power by the Russian workers this new revolutionary regime deliberately set out to end the blind anarchy and chaos of capitalism.

For the first time in world history an entire country had taken the road leading to the establishment of reason and order in society's production and distribution of goods. The long-debated program of revolutionary socialism as advanced by Marx and Engels was being tried out on a sixth of the earth's surface.

What made possible the terrific advance of (the) Russian economy? What made possible the terrific counter-offensive of the Russian people against the Hitler-led juggernaut despite the

great destruction and waste of the countryside? The secret weapon -- it was the nationalization of the Russian economy under the victorious socialist revolution.

This nationalization unleashed forces the like of which mankind have never ever before dreamed of. The Russian workers took over the industries, ousted the bosses and made management responsible to the new workers' government. The nationalization made possible the integration of the country's entire industrial system and its operation according to an efficient overall plan.

Poverty-stricken field laborers and dirt farmers moved in on the landed estates of the idle aristocracy, divided them up and staked out their own farms. And the workers, farmers and veterans set up the most democratic regime the world has ever seen -- the Soviets! -- organized throughout the land composed of workers and farmers elected by the people from their own ranks, who received no pay higher than a skilled worker, and subject to recall at any time.

The new government, a government of the masses, passed model legislation. It wasn't a government of lawyers, bookkeepers, ministers or do-gooders schooled in the arts of compromise, reasonableness, etc. As Charles Millard of the CCF said before the United Ministerial Association: "I frankly admit labor is not equipped to take the lead in solving world problems today."

The workers came out of the shops, women and men with toil-scarred hands, many illiterate, unschooled in the niceties of the bourgeois world, just workers and poor farmers and veterans. And while the liberals and the CCF of that day could only talk of how nice it would be to have this and that while the capitalist system was carrying thousands of the youth to death on the battlefields and condemning millions to unemployment, pauperization, they acted (*to end the war*).

Women were granted complete equality. All professions and trades were opened to them -- (*under terms of*) equal pay for equal work. Paid leave for pregnancy. Nurseries organized. Marriage and divorce laws liberalized in accordance with the most advanced thought in this field. Youth granted freedom and free education.

But today, the Soviets are no more, the country is under the iron heel of a ruthless bureaucracy that has crushed workers democracy. The great and progressive legislation has been

whittled and cut to pieces. Not one of the outstanding leaders of the November 1917 revolution remains in the Soviet government. They are either dead or their fate is unknown. The very co-leader with Lenin of the revolution and founder of the Red Army (*Leon Trotsky*) was assassinated by an agent of the Kremlin oligarchy. The Red Army itself -- once the great instrument of liberationist struggles, has been transformed into an oppressive instrument of the European peoples.

Doesn't all this mean that we must put the revolutionary seizure of power under the microscope and reject the way of October, cry the liberal and social-democratic faint-hearts? And the Bay Street and Wall Street propagandists shout yes in their ears.

The Wall Street colossus in whose hardening arteries pumps the blood and sweat of millions of oppressed colonial slaves, takes on a benevolent light in the eyes of these weak hearts. The mailed fist of imperialism takes on a velvet sheen in their eyes at the very moment that the capitalist class launches a vicious drive to smash and hamstring the workers at home with unprecedented price gouging and anti-labor legislation such as the Taft-Hartley Act and BC's Bill 39.

No! we Trotskyists cry. No -- the only road, the only way out of the capitalist morass and debacles remains the road of October, the road that Lenin and Trotsky, the Bolshevik Party led by the Russian workers in 1917.

Ten years ago those same people who are today such lions in the defence of the Canadian capitalist foreign policy were lavish in their praise of the murderous Kremlin clique. But they only began to praise the USSR as its degeneration became more obvious, as it fell more and more under the ruthless rule of the bureaucracy. While they grovelled before the accomplished fact of the Kremlin oligarchy, as they do today before the boot of capitalism, the Trotskyist were (*waging*) war against the criminals who have today brought the USSR to the brink of disaster!

The capitalist class, attempting to dress itself up in new clothes points to the real conditions in the USSR today, and proclaims these are the fruits of the revolution. They are joined by the reformists of all stripes and shades who also proclaim that Stalinism and all its crimes are the fruits of Bolshevism.

Here both forces find themselves in alliance with the Stalinists who have always proclaimed the Kremlin clique to be the heir of Bolshevism, and who, when they do admit the truth that Stalin has departed from Marxism, justify such departures as the murder of Lenin's co-workers, the destruction of Lenin's Third International, the establishment of privilege and inequality, as due to new conditions that Lenin never foresaw.

Lenin foresaw on his deathbed the dangers that were threatening the new-born workers' republic, as did Trotsky with whom he joined forces to fight it off. We Trotskyists, in the tradition and spirit of Marx and Lenin, have alone been able to explain what happened to the Russian Revolution. Only we fought against the degeneration of the great conquests of the October Revolution. We will never concede that planned economy can only lead to bureaucracy, that the Soviet organs of democratic workers' rule must be superceded by a massive parasitic bureaucratic apparatus, that equality of women, that democracy in a workers' army are all dreams and utopias.

No – we will never concede that the monstrosity that rules in the Kremlin is the only alternative to capitalist and fascist rule. It is the bureaucratic regime that poisons Soviet life and is the force of counter-revolution – the forces of the capitalist counter-revolution within Soviet society. They are not the product of the Russian soul which differs from the soul of any other section of the world proletariat (*only*) in that it is more experienced and revolutionary.

No – the bureaucracy is the product of the great backwardness of Russia and the long and tragic isolation of the October Revolution. The Revolution broke out in one of the most backward contries in the world – illiterate, with few railroads, with superstitions and low industrial capacity. The victorious Bolsheviks well understood that the very backwardness would not permit them to hold out very long without the aid of a victorious proletarian revolution in other areas of the globe.

The great backwardness of the economy, the great shortage of consumer goods, the pressure of world capitalism on the weak economy, paved the way for careerists, opportunists and bureaucrats who in their grab for what little there was, found an ally in the person of Stalin. The Left Opposition under Trotsky struggled against this undermining of the workers' state and stood on the platform of revolutionary socialism.

The bureaucracy raised the slogan of "socialism in one country" which meant in its final analysis the destruction of the Comintern from an organ of spreading the basis of the October Revolution into an organ of Stalin's foreign office and a blackmail weapon in his deals with the imperialists.

The Opposition understood as did Lenin and the old Bolsheviks that socialism can be built only as a world-wide society, by the integration of industry on a world scale and guiding its operation according to an overall plan that permits each country to dovetail its productive capacities efficiently with the rest of the earth.

In its struggle with the bureaucracy the Trotskyists were hampered by the exhaustion of the Russian workers and the destruction of their most selfless leaders in the wars of intervention. Stalin persecuted and slandered the Opposition and destroyed the International. He continued his violent persecution of the Opposition with murders at home and abroad. He paved the way for the victory of Hitler, Franco and the stabilization of capitalism following World War II.

In the Soviet Union Stalin has destroyed all the progressive legislation passed by the Bolsheviks. Only the nationalized economy remains. It was on the basis of the nationalized economy that the first great conquests of the Revolution were made and it remains upon this basis that the Russian workers can eventually get rid of Stalinism. That is why we Trotskyists remain solid for the defence of the USSR against Stalin and all his crimes, *(and)* for defence of the USSR. For *(only)* the basis of what remains of the Russian Revolution can begin the restoration of the Bolshevik reign.

How else to explain the rise of the Kremlin clique -- the destruction of the Bolshevik leaders and the Soviets and the progressive legislation passed by the Soviets? This is the only rational explanation. The hocus-pocus about the Russian soul explains nothing. That Stalin's desertion of Marxism, his destruction of many of the most fundamental gains of October was necessitated by conditions that Lenin never foresaw, is a foul lie.

The Russian Revolution despite the crimes of the bureaucracy has been vindicated by history, and the path that the Russian workers first explored on our behalf remains the only way out of capitalist wars and depression. Today the workers on the North

American continent are groping their way to find a solution to their problems. Once they find their way and make the revolution we can be confident that there will be no counter-revolution, no Stalinism to sap and undermine their achievements.

The Canadian workers and their American brothers are more numerous... more skilled in the art of production... more organized in greater numbers by the concentration of industry. They will inherit an industrial apparatus that even at its present stage of development is capable of supplying their every need and desire, and for that matter almost every need and desire of the entire world once organized on a rational basis.

The Canadian collective farms will have no difficulty demonstrating their superiority to those who still desire to farm on a small scale. The great enterprises like River Rouge, once under workers' control will gradually suck secondary industries into the socialized business system without the slightest need of compulsion.

No fear of foreign intervention (*will exist*). Once the main obstacle is removed, capitalist ownership of the means of production, only then will a whole new world of atomic energy – science at the service of man, planning order and intelligence, reign. Once the workers of America in alliance with the oppressed of the entire world – become conscious of their power – become conscious that they are the real power in the globe and not Wall Street or the cynical clique in the Kremlin, then everything is possible.

(end)

(Note by Ross's sister : "Read to Ross on Fri. Jan. 25/2002 (in hospital after suffering a stroke). He awoke and opened his eyes from the end of the first paragraph to the end – Lois")

October 31 1947)

Dear Don;

Pardon the long delay in replying to your letter, dated October 20. You are right of course when you say that these personal difficulties "remain for you and I to settle". I am very hesitant about making any remarks on the whole affair, not because of a lack of interest of course but because both of you are comrades of mine and I know how nasty affairs like this can become and find reflection within our party and affect our work. But of course the mere fact that you are both comrades makes me concerned about the whole affair very much and hope that it can be resolved to both your satisfaction.

Maurice gave me an inkling about it all when he was in town. And let me digress a moment and tell you what took place with him. He gave forty dollars to the financial drive. He also gave me to understand that he was in none too good a position for a great deal more. He thinks he might be able to get \$20 from Shuste. I flung your challenge at him. He was quite impressed by the size of your contribution but did not commit himself to take it up. I would have liked to really press him but in my opinion it is not advisable to do so. Just before leaving he told me that I would no doubt be angry to hear that he had been approached by ~~some~~ some Detroit comrade to help finance the Leon book. He told me that he gave them some money as he felt that he was obliged to do so as he was quite close to the Detroit branch. I let him know that we really needed it more, as important as the Leon book is, but did not raise any hell. I think we can be very frank with Maurice but he is not going to be bulldozed and I think we have to let it go at that. We spent most of the time discussing the situation in the UAW. He had not yet seen the long statement by the editors in the Militant on our position and seemed to be a trifle worried about our role in the whole fight...if we were not going to get sucked into something, whether we were not identifying ourselves too much with the Thomas Addes outfit and the possibility of our building our own caucus. We went over the Editorial and he appeared to be satisfied with the party statement of policy.

Personally the curtness of Eleanor's note startles me. Don't worry I can really appreciate how much the flat, the furniture and records mean to you in view of the many personal difficulties you have been undergoing. I also know how valuable it will be to you for contact work, ~~study~~ study, etc. I know what a goddammed boarding-house room can be like, how depressing and stultifying they can be. It is just possible that Eleanor really wants the money and not for spite. But to sell the furniture to raise it seems to me to be fantastic for if you paid six for it you would only get about two for it. That is why I suggest that I would loan you the money if you wanted to pay Eleanor off. I hope you did not take affront to the offer. I think if you even hope to solve the personal difficulties between you you should try to clear up any petty money differences there are. Of course I would not be loaning you party money as it is not mine to lend. Strange as it may seem I have a considerable amount of money belonging to someone else temporarily in my name. You know I haven't got a red cent of my own. I would be glad to forward some of it in the hopes that it will resolve some of the tension

I think it would be a good idea to get otgether with her and come to some understanding as to how much you still owe her on taking over ~~XXX~~ everything.....and then make some arrangment satisfactory to both of you. If she demands immediate payment you could either take my offer or if you do not like to do so take out a personal loan. This may appear to be sort of drastic but I have seen such matters as this really develop into something so that both parties lose their s sense of proportion. I see that you did attempt to come to some such agreement a few months ago but Eleanor is forcing the issue.

I would be v ry sorry to see a matter such as this come up before the branch as it would certainly put Eleanor in a very bad light in the minds of the comrades. I am inclined to belive that this is a bluff or a bit of temporary hysteria as I know that she is too serious a persons to even consider doing so otherwise.

I assure you that the whole matter does not amuse either Auth or myself. Much as I hesitate to eter into the affair at all I do not know anyone to whom you have any better right to turn to . After all this term of address;comrade is not just so much formallity or hot air. I am axious to see it cleared up not only from a strictly personal, comradely point of view but also politically. For in squabbles such as this I have seen people do things that they have regretted the rest of their lives. I restrain myself however to sort of skating around it I must admit because it is essentially your problem and its up to you to solve it and after all I am know master ~~XXX~~ psychologist.

You will notice in the finacial drive circular letter that ¹ report you as challenging all comers to match you dollar for dollar. I did this because this is in my opinion the only way to raise it again to Maurice and to all other comrades. Of course we dnot expect you to do so...and as a matter of fact I am pretty sure that there is no one going to send in as much as \$90 except perhaps Ken J. I hate to say this and I suppose as a party man I should not say it but I hope you do not send in any more money at the expense of the solution of your personal problems. We need the money I know only too well but after all \$90 is a very sizeable donation from a comrade in your circumstances and we do not expect you to finance the party yours elf.

By the time you receive this letter you will have received the latest issue of L.C. Sorry to report that we just could not squeeze the article that you wrote up on the anti-fascist fight in Detroit. You will note that we were compelled to drop Left -Jabs and the book review, two of our regular features. This was forced on us because of the need to carry the Russian Revolution article and the long Manifesto of the Fourth on the Belgrade Bureau which is a political responsibility to publish. We also had to drop a report on the CIO and AFL Convention and a dozen other odds and ends. As a matter of fact The next issue must be fairly well lined up. The Detroit affair will be quite old by the next issue and in my opinion if we do have room for it we should cut it down to a box. At any rate I will raise the whole matter at the editorial board meeting. What do you think about writing for the paper. Would you like ~~XXXXXX~~ us to give you an assignment for this issue or the next? Since we come out so seldom and are so small we do not have much room for unassigned material other than some terrific development.

We received 50 copies of FDR the other day. 25 to my address and 25 to the office. It was the October 9 issue. I thought that it was a very fine issue. Although I was hooked today to read that the executive board of the UAW has agreed to sign the anti-red affidavit which can only mean that Thomas Addes agreed also as they have the majority on the board. What's going on ...are they wilting under the pressure. Hugh has been taking them into the plant. Bob wants to take them in also but since we have Hugh there with seniority we figure he should do it.

And now to take up one ~~KEY~~ of the most important problems. The question of someone going to Windsor. Maurice also raised it when he was here. Well we had the P.C. meeting last week and had a very thorough discussion of the matter. The P.C. ended up by recommending that Hugh should be urged to go. They are of the opinion that we just haven't got anyone of real experience, as you desire and of course as we would like to send, that we can spare at this time. The minutes of the P.C. are sent out to all N.C. members for their approval. We took up the matter of Vancouver searching its ranks but we have not heard from the Vancouver comrades as yet. Possibly we will have a letter this Monday though. I am afraid however that there is little hope there as we just received a letter from one of our best comrades who moved at the party's request from Prince Rupert down to Vancouver. He has informed us that he was compelled much against his will to return to Prince Rupert as he was unable to get housing for his family although he searched the whole 6 months he lived there himself, and jobs were not paying enough in Vancouver for him to keep ~~himself~~ allow him to live away from his family and pay terrific board rates. I hope that something can be done but to be perfectly candid I don't see what can be done. Hugh appears now to be undecided however I told him of the P.C. recommendation and to think it over. In my opinion it would be a good idea for you to drop him a line. I know that he would be a great help to you and the experience would be invaluable for him. I will let you know what the N.C. thinks of it all and what develops in Vancouver as soon as we receive word.

I phoned up about the buttons just the other day. They were working on them and we should receive them any day now. I am very anxious to see them myself. Will send you one post haste when they come in.

Well I must close now as it is 5.20 and I must prepare a little something for my turn at the East of our street corner meetings which we have to-night. Getting pretty cool up here now and we are moving inside. We hope to have a bang-up Nov. 7 meeting. Vince Copeland (Grey) is coming up to be guest speaker. I suppose Detroit branch will have a very fine meeting

very warmest regards

comradely

Ross D.

EW 1944-57 NW

November 18 1947

Dear Murray;

Just have time to drop you this line before a P.C. meeting. Will take up the many more problems in a letter tomorrow which will also include the minutes.

Very sorry that we were unable to dig up the material on the immigration for Jean's broadcast. We had one hell of a time with the last issue of the paper getting it through the printers. Ed has been reading our paper and been taking on more work in preparation for the coming depression. We had the copy up there on Wednesday, he stalled and stalled and we were only able to get the bundle copies by Friday afternoon after Ruth had been up there all Thursday getting driblets and I had been there all Friday. The result was that we had to read the proofs as Ed could n't get down so often and for such small driblets. Barry and Al are busy getting ready for their exams and we were just not able to get around to dig up the material for you. We both gave Ed a raking over the coals and I think he will stop shoving our stuff off to the back as Johnny and Bob tell us he has been doing.

Sent Ken his books yesterday. He can pay you for them and I will add them to your account. We also received the enclosed book order which of course we are unable to fill from this end. I have taken the stamps and credited them to your account. Will you fill this order for us. I suppose we have been missing out in running your ad on the Montreal box number.

Helped Jeannette send off a large bundle of clothes for you last night. She asked me to tell you that the lease form is in the box stuffed inside an old fedora. The boots that you wanted are by now on someone of our French comrades feet. I remember finding an extra pair of army boots that I figured we did not need in the attic a while back. ..so I sent them to Europe. Jeanette just told me that you had left the pair I gave you at our house after the toboggan party. There is another pair there but they are not very good...do you want me to send them.

I can see that all the various other items that you take up in your two letters will be subject for discussion this afternoon so I will leave them till tomorrow.

Warmest regards

Ross

20th Jan 1947
E4 1944-57
November 19 1947

(-franc Beldard, Montreal)
Dear Jean;

I have already written Murray a line apologizing for our failure to gather the material that he and you requested for the broadcast. Our printer seems to have been reading our paper too closely...he seems to be firmly convinced that there is a depression coming and he is taking on every job he can get his hands on. The result is they are going night and day and he has been shoving our stuff back and back. The last issue was all in his hands on Wednesday morning but he stalled around and continued to feed us little dribblets until we finally raised some real hell and managed to get it off on Friday. The result was that Ruth and I got tied up completely and were unable to find time to help you. I would have turned the job over to one of the younger comrades to get the material at the Star library but both Al and Barry are busy with exams. I am very sorry but what I could gather of your speech via the phone it seems to have suffered very little. We will certainly be listening in on the radio tonight.

Lloyd has been sending in a few letters the last ~~week~~ month or so seeking information on the IWA situation on Quebec. I sent him your address so he could write to you direct as of course we have very little information ourselves. I am typing out a section of his last letter which I think will interest you;

"I received a letter the other day from M. Sikora IWA organizer in eastern Canada. I know Mike very well, as a matter of fact he got his job in the first place through the recommendation of our union caucus two years ago. His letter was very informative, he mentioned Jean leaving the Congress and going to work with him in the IWA. Mike is a CCFer, that is as long as he thinks it will help him get along personally. However Mike has considerable ability and has done a fair job of organizing in B.C. and I think Jean will be able to get along with him OK. Mike stated that a local of the IWA is being organized in Toronto and I consider this very important to us. The IWA will take in furniture, sash ~~and~~ door, retail lumber yards and all woodworking plants. So I consider it very important that our Toronto comrades take steps to get in on the ground floor. If we have any comrades who could go to work in any of the plants I mentioned above, as a matter of fact I would suggest this as an immediate task after you people who are nearest to the scene have discussed it."

We have not yet had the opportunity to discuss the matter here in detail. I recall reading that the IWA was recently certified at some local plant but I do not think that we will be in a position for a while to colonize anyone. ~~THEY HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED AT SOME PLANTS BUT WE ARE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO COLONIZE ANYONE.~~ As you know we sent Stella into the UE to help Vern. Incidentally she won her case against Rogers and they have been compelled to reinstate her with payment of back wages. We had a tough job getting Sonia into industry, she is in the Chemical workers (AFL). We just got Bob into Massey's to help Hugh so we do not have anyone around at this time free to go into industry. However we will keep our eyes open and when we have the opportunity investigate if there are any suitable sizeable plants here.

Received Farrell Dobbs letter on the Retail clerks. What is the latest.

Angus has told me that Twist took the bait and told him tat they will make a trip to Montreal shorlty. Have there been any recent developments. Are we already to swing the locals inot the Retail Clerks.

I am also very much interested to know how things are coming along with our plans to move into the IWA. I am convinced that this has terrific opportunities for us and will be an excellent experience. Would you write a letter to Lloyd and let him know all the recent developments. If you are pressed for time ~~XXX~~ make a carbon copy and send it along to me.

Hope to see you shorlty....give our regards to all the comrades.

Aved Salutations Fraternalle

Ross

November 21 1947

Dear Don;

I hope you got the money alright. I wired it Tuesday at about 5 o'clock. Your letter asking for it must have arrived here on Friday so I suppose you must have been very much put out by the delay.

As a matter of fact it is only by accidnet that ~~you~~ I sent it when I did. I started to read your letter when it first came in but somehow I never finished it. Someone must have come in to disturbe me or something. At anyrate I put it aside after have read four or five pages intrneding to pick it up again and answer it when we had the paper cleared away. I had been up at the printer all morning and mailed the bundles in the afternoon and went out collecting for the campaign in the evening. What I usually do when we are rushed like that is to glance through the mail hurriedly to see if there is anything that must be attend- ed to right away. If not I put the correspondence away till I can answare it later. Well I seem to have read seven pages and that was all. Then on Tuesday at about 5 Ruth asked me if I had sent the money when we were in the midst of talking about other money problems.

Well thats the truth and the whole truth.

Your remarks on the development of Reuther's program via Canada is very interesting. Well, I am certainly relieved to find that we not only played the right horse (I was pretty well convinced of that) but that we ~~didn't~~ do not have to apologize for anything that the Thomas Addes caucus did or said. It may have lost but it was the right one. From what happened to ~~the~~ Thomas Addes Leonard ~~gang~~ and their whole machine it would seem to me that our comrades are in a very good position to take over the whole works of what is left.

Hell the Stalinists had no yard stick to forsee the develop- ment of Reuther and his gang at all. They opposed Reuther because of their completely collaborationist line, because Thomas Addes at that time were not yet emerged from their period of wartime collaboration

I would have liked to have been at the meeting in Toledo were you were talking with Vince Dunne. I don't think that the FDR material was high school stuff at all. I thought it was agit- ational dynamite and needed at that time to sharpen the lines. The last issue I saw was very good--with the caucus program etc. I think his point about Lewis and the possibility of Reuther coming out for a labor party is well taken ~~XXXXXX~~ and compells ~~us~~ ~~us~~ while attacking their betryals to temper it somewhat by emphasiz- ing the root causes of their betryals. We are living in a period when even the bureaucrats and the priviledges are threatened by the drive of the bourgeoisie to smash the unions in toto. The American trade union leadership which is not political as is

the bulk of the Candidnain leadership, is capable of tremendous shifts and zig-zags. In the explosive situations that are bound to develop there is no question that we are ~~XXXXX~~ in for some surprises from suprising quarters.

I do not think this is so true here in Canda where there has been a political atmosphere independent of the bosses for sometime. A considerable portion of the Trade union leadership is already tied up to the LPP and particularly the CCF. In the hands of CCF leaders the spirit of independent trade unionism is dying...that is independent and against the capitalist state for, the CCF as a political movment is committed to ~~XXXXXX~~ reform and thus defence of the state.

Have you been opening up at the shop at all or is the name Dotzert giving the reb-beiters the lead on you. I would be supriised if the right wing let you into their caucus after waht they must know about you but it might be a good idea to try it and see just what the situation is there...as long as it does not get you barred from either caucus. This young CCF contact seems to be quite a serious fellow and pretty quick on the trigger. Has he said anything to you about the paper?

I gather from what Meredith had to say to our contact that it is generally known that we ~~XXXXXX~~ are closely connected to FDR. Yes Steve Anco is the president of the Massey Harris local.Euhave heard of this fellow McIver and if I am not mistaken he was the fellow who ran as the Reuther delegate for the convention. It sounds like a dirty smear to me but I will show it to Hugh. Hugh ran in the election and polled a fair vote although he was on neither slate. He will be writing you shortly....and from what I heard tonight he might be in Windsor sooner than he had planned as I underatdn they have just put the tool-room in three shifts and he will be on nights shorlty.

comradely

Ross

November 26 1947

(Downs, Montreal)
Dear Murray;

Just a line as Ruth is writing up the heads. We have just got all the copy in so I will take up a couple of ~~papers~~ before having to go over the heads with her.

We have not had time to have another P.C. meeting and discuss all the various matters that the financial problem shoved aside. But we did discuss your proposal to lengthen the campaign. We decided that there would be no gain, ~~and~~ after having given a greater time to it we would end up with substantially the same total. Toronto has completely wound up its campaign. Vancouver has not forwarded all funds but what is yet to come, is going to be raised from entirely internal sources. Some of its already pledged so we marked Vancouver up this amount although we have not received it. What is left to go to ~~make~~ ^{the} \$300 is also to be raised internally but it seems to me to be of a doubtful future. Angus says there will be more but it will be a very small amount possibly ten dollars. ~~So~~ there is the ~~other~~ factor about the need to extend it solely for Montreal and about \$50 elsewhere. It seems to me that the persons who we are yet to raise money from in Montreal do not need to have an ~~any~~ extension to be approached. It seems to me quite possible that the non attainment of the objective would have an even better effect since in the same issue of the paper we show that we are going ahead---the election campaign.

The final score is 1,561.03 which is not too bad...the most we have ever raised in three campaigns and more people were contributors...this is so in Toronto and Britannia Beach, I am not sure in Vancouver. We are stressing this in the column so it does not look at all bad

Montreal is marked up as 147.00 breakdown as follows

October 23rd...65
November 10 ...40 not specified what it was so put in Financial Drive.
Boulay, Hull 2
November 24 40.00

What do you think of the financial situation as outlined in the report. ~~THE~~ Reg writes that he doesn't see any alternative but for us to try to economize on the staff. Toronto branch has agreed to figure 80 in the campaign, planned on the same as last years budget, to go as wages.

We were forced into the elections before receiving any word from the M.C. members, as the Toronto Labor Council announced that it was going to take up the endorsement of candidates last Monday. Their executive meets Saturday ~~and~~ Business that did not appear before them I understand has no chance on the floor. So we had to send in the request

for endorsement in a rush. However on Monday night they postponed taking up endorsements so they could wind up debate on the OCL Convention.

The letter I sent you is as you no doubt guessed a copy of one that we are sending to all locals that we can obtain addresses of. Massey-Harris is meeting on Sunday and Harry and I will be there.

Sorry to hear that you have lost your job. I understand that Joyce and Joe have agreed to take over the apartment and furniture. Will take up the trade union situation in both Quebec and some more disagreements that have arisen with B.C. in a couple of days. Want to get all the letters out and send the one off to the AFL Council in time for their coming executive meeting.

Warmest regards



Ross

We are cutting out the radio as we think we can get aid from the Doctor without it and we need the money for wages - also in order to increase press run of manifests. are making a real drive to get aid from outsiders & We think it is the best possible party building work.

December 1 1947

Dear Don;

(Windsor)

Just a short note to let you know that we received the money order for the \$30.00 alright.

Well we have broken into the press with our election campaign. Both the Star and Globe and Mail had a news item on our announcement. So far we are the only candidate running in opposition to Saunders and I hope it stays that way as it will focus more attention on us. The Star item tried to put us in an unfavourable light by playing up the fact that if Saunders had not been opposed the city would have saved the colossal sum of 300 odd dollars in printing the ballot. The G.M. tried to pun on the fact that I was Murrays brother...the revolutionary Dowsons. We have sent out a letter to every local in town asking endorsement and received an enquiry yesterday from the secretary of one local. No doubt Harry's candidature is causing quite a stir in the needle trades where Harry is very well known. Jeanette says her shop was all abuzz with the news. The Stalinists are going to pay a little attention to us it seems. They broke the news of the campaign four days before we did, they thought Murray was going to run and reported that we were seeking endorsement by the labor councils in a short news item. The chances seem fair of getting endorsement from one or two locals where we have the odd comrades.

Will probably be pretty silent in the next month or so as you can well understand how busy we will be

E4-1947-64 Charted

RWP Election Program



ELECT
MURRAY DOWSON
MAYOR FOR 1947

Vote for a Workers' Candidate

Toronto Municipal Election

INTRODUCTION

This year's municipal elections are probably the most important in the history of Toronto. Thousands of citizens, veterans and workers, can not find any kind of shelter for themselves or their families. Meanwhile permits continue to be issued for non-essential and luxury building! Oppressive taxation and inflationary price rises are forcing down the living standards of the people, while Big Business rakes in the greatest profits in its peacetime history. These are the immediate issues in the municipal election.

Haunting the future of wage and salary workers, small homeowners, professional and small business men is the spectre of the postwar depression, predicted by a majority of capitalist economists for mid-1947. Ever present is the danger of a third imperialist war and the atomic destruction of mankind.

In an attempt to divert the attention of the voters from the real issues of the election — housing, taxes, the milk price increase and other price rises — the reactionary majority of the Council, the political stooges of the Bay Street financiers, have injected the red herring of "cocktail bars". In addition, in order to hide their bankruptcy, they are once again launching a vicious red-baiting campaign aimed at all working class candidates seeking office.

The reactionary record of the Tory machine which backs Saunders is well-known. Its openly anti-labor policies include attacks on the unemployed in the "hungry thirties," low wages and poor con-

ditions for hundreds of civic employees and the use of police against striking workers which was once again demonstrated in the recent Imperial Optical, Brown's Bread and Gutta Percha strikes.

In the mayoralty election, the working people are offered the choice between the Tory Saunders, the retired stockbroker, O'Hearn, or the candidate of the Revolutionary Workers Party, Murray Dowson, the only representative of the workers running for the highest office in the city.

Who controls City Hall, the workers through their own representatives, or the big banks, industrialists, real estate and mortgage companies through their stooges in both the capitalist parties, is of vital concern to all citizens. It is only necessary to pose the question to get the correct answer. The working people must control in the municipal field as well as in the national and provincial governments!

We believe it is our duty to give the wage and salary workers, the small homeowners, the professional workers and the small shopkeepers an opportunity to cast their ballots for a candidate that can truly represent them, instead of throwing their votes down the sewer of capitalist machine politics.

Therefore, the Revolutionary Workers Party, on behalf of working people of Toronto, have entered their candidate, Murray Dowson, in the mayoralty elections. He will present our program, the only answer to the needs of the people in the critical period ahead.

DOWSON X

Program Of The Revolution

1 For Independent Working Class Political Action!

City politics are doomed to remain the almost exclusive monopoly of corrupt political machine bosses until the workers realize the necessity of challenging the capitalist candidates in the municipal elections as well as in Dominion and provincial elections. All the gains made by labor through decades of struggle are menaced by the Bay Street sharks until the working people put into office their own representatives. Labor must break with company unionism in politics!

If the workers of Toronto become

organized on the political field as they have in industry, they can fill all the municipal offices with men and women who really represent labor. Think how much easier it would then be to bargain effectively with the employers. Think how much easier it would be to safeguard the interests of the industrial and white-collar workers, the veterans and small home owners when the post-war depression strikes.

Break Bay Street's grip on City Hall! For a 100 per cent labor city council.

2 For Subsidized Low-Rent Housing!

The capitalist politicians, during the war, promised the men in the forces and the workers at home, a new world—"The Four Freedoms". But today thousands of workers and veterans and their families do not have "Freedom From Want". They desperately need any kind of decent shelter.

In Toronto up to October 13, only 592 building permits of the 8,784 permits issued by the city were for dwellings. The rest were mainly for non-essential and luxury buildings. Saunders has refused to take the responsibility, offered him by Ottawa, for directing where the building materials, so plentiful for bank head-offices, theatres and factories and so scarce for homes, should go. As a result, his master, Big Business has grabbed the lion's share of construction material.

In the interests of the homeless veterans and workers, we demand a stop to the issuance of permits for non-essential and luxury build-

ing. The control of construction must be taken out of the hands of the servants of the bosses. They are not seriously concerned with carrying through any extensive plan of slum clearance and providing the thousands of low-rental workers dwellings, so direly needed by the workers and veterans.

Control of construction must be placed in the hands of the organizations of the construction workers, the people with the know-how, who alone can be trusted to plan and carry out a housing program for the working people.

The RWP candidate in office will bring pressure to bear on the Dominion government, to use the almost \$1 billion it has appropriated for war preparations for housing. Instead of permitting materials to be used for luxury building, build more hospitals to care for the sick! Instead of renovating the Canadian National Exhibition, build modern day nurseries for the children of working mothers!

3 Municipalize the Milk Distribution Industry!

Sky-rocketing prices are slashing the living standards of the people. Salaried workers, who in their majority are unorganized, have been the hardest hit for they

have received few raises. The wage gains won by the organized workers, in the recent strike wave, are threatened with being completely wiped out by the sharp

ary Workers Party 1947

out in the purchasing power of the dollar.

Striking at the health of the children, the milk monopolists have raised their prices almost 50 per cent in recent months. We advocate that the Council, which has done nothing about the milk price rise, take the distribution of this basic food away from the milk trust and run it as a municipal enterprise. Thus the price of milk can be brought back to its former level by eliminating waste and super-profits. The people to do this job should be the organized work-

ers in the industry who know its problems and will see that the jobs of the workers are protected by cutting down the hours of work with no loss in pay.

The wage gains of the workers can be protected by writing into all union agreements, a sliding scale or escalator clause to provide automatic wage increases with each increase in the cost of living. Wages and salaries should and must rise automatically with rising living costs! Let the city begin by granting this to its own employees.

4 Make Toronto A 100 Per Cent Union City!

An RWP candidate in the mayor's office would foster trade unionism, utilizing his power to break up the employer-police-court combination. We would fight against all curtailment of the right of mass picketing, use of the police against picket lines and for scab-herding. The wages, hours and

conditions of civic employees and their relations with our administration would stand as an example to all. They would set the norm for the conditions of all workers in the area. Our party and its candidate recognize not only collective bargaining but the right to strike.

5 Tax the Rich, Not the Poor!

In the last seven years Big Business has rolled up the most phenomenal profits in its history. But their political servants in the Tory and Liberal parties have placed the main burden of taxation on the



working people—those least able to pay. The capitalist politicians seek office in order to perpetuate this condition.

The city raises the bulk of its finances from property taxation. In Toronto a large number of workers are small home owners. The RWP, therefore, advocates a graduated scale of property taxation, to place the chief burden of taxation on the homes of the wealthy and on their big business establishments.

(over)

Murray Dowson

THE RWP CANDIDATE



Murray Dowson, the only workers' candidate for the mayoralty of Toronto, 1947, is a toolmaker by trade who has spent over 14 years of his life in active struggle for the working people.

Born in Toronto's west-end in 1915, he was raised and educated in Toronto and suburbs. While still a student in High School, he was active in the unemployed movement and the fight to organize the unorganized in the early thirties. Murray Dowson has been a member at various times, of the Teamsters' Union, International Association of Machinists, International Union of Operating Engineers, and more recently of the DeHavilland Local 112, United Automobile Workers CIO.

Elected to the National Committee of the Revolutionary Workers Party, he is at present editor of its twice-monthly paper, *Labor Challenge*. He first entered the socialist movement in 1932, and has been fighting for the program of the RWP since 1933. He is pledged to carry out the fighting program contained in this leaflet, if elected mayor in 1947.

6 Let All Over 18 Vote In Municipal Elections!

Tens of thousands of residents of Toronto are disfranchised by reactionary property qualifications limiting the right to vote in municipal elections. We demand the

right to vote for all over 18 years in municipal, as well as in Dominion and provincial elections.

Against the two-year term for city council!

7 For a Socialist Society!

Capitalism has given mankind the agony of two world wars in a quarter century. Big Business is preparing for a third world war. So long as capitalism endures, depressions, unemployment, hunger and war will ravage the world. Only by taking industry out of the hands of the greedy profiteers and organizing it rationally according to the needs of the people is further progress possible.

The fate of civilization depends on the working class taking power and establishing a Workers' and

Farmers' Government. In this mighty struggle the workers of Toronto can play a leading part. By setting out on the road of independent political action, they will by their example encourage the workers throughout the country. That is why this Toronto election is of great importance! That is why a vote for the Revolutionary Workers Party candidate, Murray Dowson, for mayor, will bring closer the socialist society of peace, plenty and prosperity for all!

Listen to

The Revolutionary Workers Party

Broadcasts



Thursday, December 26 — 10.20 p.m.

Friday, December 27 — 10.20 p.m.

STATION **CKEY** 580 on Your Dial

Read

Labor Challenge

A twice monthly paper bringing the truth about labor's struggle for socialism to the working people of Canada.

SUBSCRIPTION: 50 CENTS FOR SIX MONTHS (12 issues)

\$1.00 FOR ONE YEAR (24 issues)

LABOR CHALLENGE, 87 King St. W., Toronto 1, Ontario.

Vote . Support . Work For

MURRAY DOWSON for MAYOR

RWP ELECTION HEADQUARTERS

87 KING ST. WEST, Room 5, TORONTO 1

Phone ELgin 9613

Additional copies of this leaflet, for distribution to your friends, neighbors and shopmates, may be obtained, on request, from RWP election headquarters.